

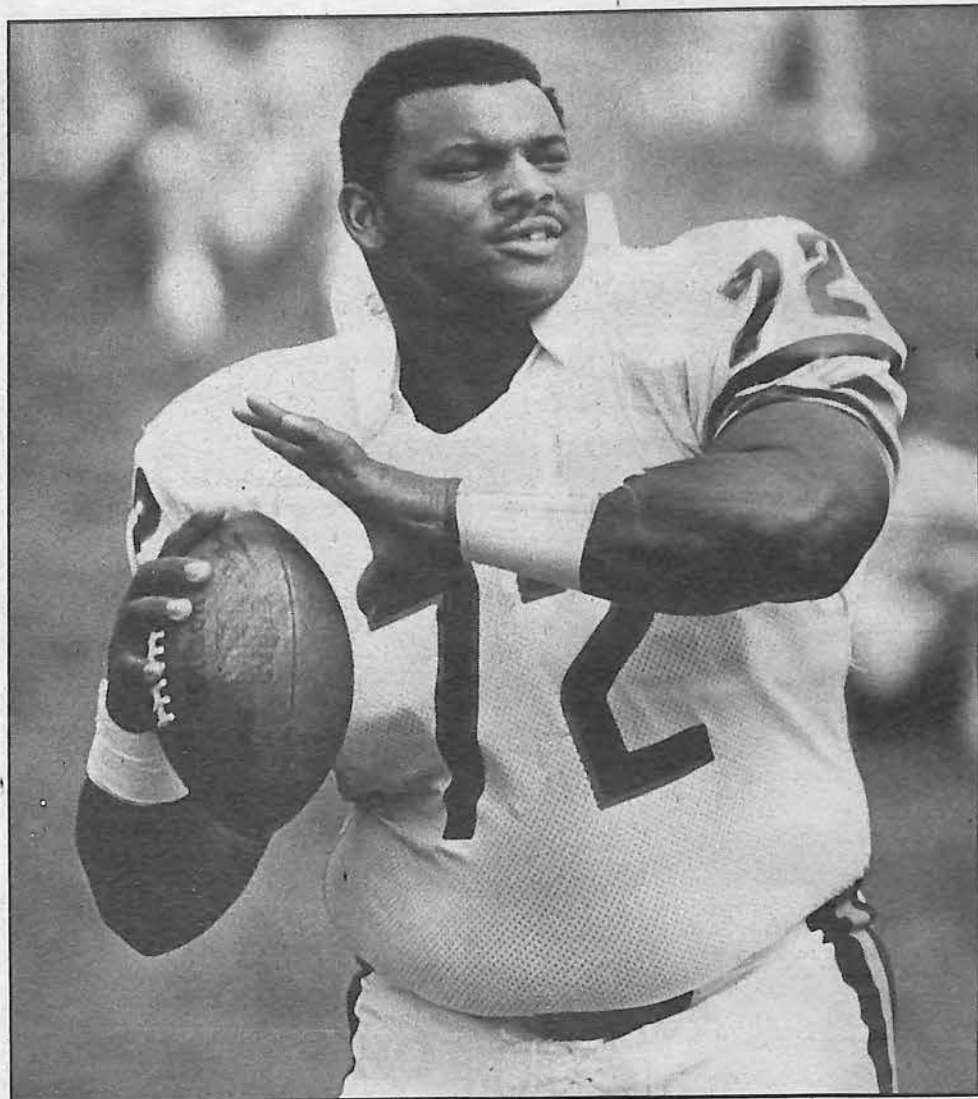
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Chicago BEAR REPORT

Vol. 18 No. 23 November 20, 1993

Albert Fontenot is one of several young players who provide hope for the future





Unplugged

The Bears said goodbye to William "Refrigerator" Perry last week, cutting the one-time folk hero and signing free agent lineman Tory Epps in his place. Perry was in his ninth season. See story on page 9. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)



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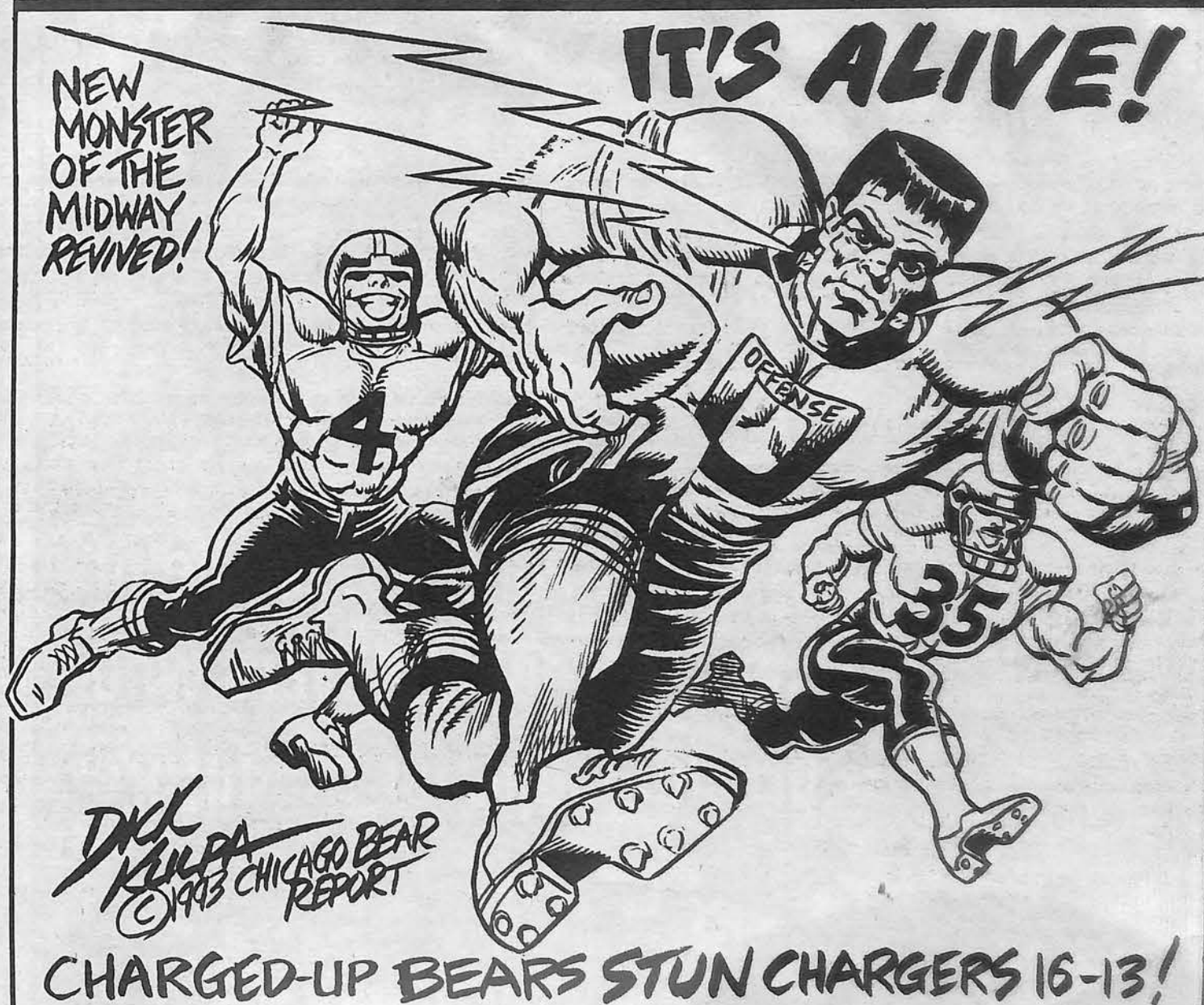
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Next week's issue of *Chicago Bear Report* will include an injury update on Wendell Davis, a feature on the Bears' five-man practice squad, complete coverage from Kansas City as the Bears take on Joe Montana and the Chiefs, and a two-page color poster of defensive tackle Tim Ryan.

DRAW PLAY



Chicago BEAR REPORT

Vol. 18 No. 23 November 20, 1993

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FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

LARRY MAYER



Ever seen the Revlon commercial in which gorgeous supermodels clad in baseball uniforms and caps prance around to the beat of "Shake Your Body?" If there's ever a football version of that spot, Bears coach Dave Wannstedt is pegged for a starring role.

No, the rookie head coach doesn't wear mascara or blush. With a wife and two daughters, there's plenty of that to go around the Wannstedt household. He is, however, an expert on makeovers. In less than 12 months he's transformed a football roster replete with older dead weight into one stocked with promising but untapped young talent.

Regardless of how many victories the Chicago Bears accumulate in 1993, Wannstedt has successfully laid the foundation to build for the future, something that was not a reality one year ago at this time. Amazingly, 23 of the 53 men on the current roster were not with the Bears in 1992. Fifteen of the newcomers have

been in the league three years or less.

Stepping on toes wasn't at all a concern for Wannstedt, who has chiseled away by releasing popular veterans such as William Perry, Jim Morrissey and Tom Thayer. The link to the 1985 Super Bowl team is being severed to a greater extent seemingly on a weekly basis. No one likes to see players who brought glory to the team and its fans dumped in the driveway outside Halas Hall. But that, Bears fans, is the most efficient way to ensure that Super Bowl XX will not live to be Chicago's only appearance in the big game.

One of the talented young players who hopes to play on the Bears' next championship team is defensive lineman Albert Fontenot. He's an ideal example of a player with excellent tools and work habits who's being groomed for a prominent role down the road.

Wannstedt places a premium on players who excel in practice, and Fontenot has done just that. As a reward, his playing time has escalated the past few weeks, a trend that is expected to continue. The fourth-round draft pick out of Baylor joined the Bears this season as a defensive end. Lately, however, he's being inserted into the lineup at tackle primarily on passing downs alongside Richard Dent, Chris Zorich and Trace Armstrong.

"We're really trying to get our four best pass rushers on the field at the same time, and Al is one of those four at this point," Wannstedt said. "We try to rotate him in for Steve McMichael a little bit. We'll probably continue to do that."

The confusion of switching to tackle is minimal for Fontenot simply because his task of gobbling up the quarterback remains the same.

"It's no problem," Wannstedt said. "That's overrated on third down because all you're doing is putting the guy in to rush the passer. Al gives great effort and we actually got him some work in practice doing that, so he should be fine."

Wannstedt adores play-makers, and Fontenot fits that description. Against the Raiders he recorded his first sack as he stripped the ball from Jeff Hostetler. Unfortunately, none of Fontenot's teammates were in the neighborhood, which allowed Hostetler to avert further danger by pouncing on the ball uncontested.

"It was just a reaction," Fontenot explained. "The way he was carrying the ball, that was the closest thing to me, so I reached down and got it."

Fontenot played just



Rookie defensive lineman Albert Fontenot, now playing primarily as a third down (Bear Report file photo by George Niman)

two seasons at Baylor after transferring from a junior college. As a senior, he started every game at left end and recorded 11 sacks, forced a fumble, recovered another, and knocked down three passes. The Bears traded up in the draft to land him with the 112th overall pick.

"Albert Fontenot has been a very pleasant surprise since the beginning of training camp," said defensive line coach Clarence Brooks. "He's an excellent athlete who works tremendously hard on the field, and he picks things up well. We think he has a real future, especially with the pass rush. He does have a knack for that. We're happy with the way things are going with him. In the last couple weeks we've made a push to get him on the field more."

Fontenot is motivated to reciprocate

after the Bears went out of their way to nab him.

"As a person, I'm a hard-worker. I try to put everything I have in what I do," Fontenot said. "Chicago took a chance on me because they believed in me, so I owe them a hundred percent."

"I'm doing well in practice in the pass rush drills and recognizing different offenses. The one thing I'm working on is my reaction to run blocks."

In future seasons, Fontenot may eventually emerge as a starter. For now, he's biding his time by taking advantage of his increasing but still limited playing time.

"The little time that I'm in there," he said, "I've got to make every play count."

A Changing World

Amazingly, 23 players on the Bears' current 53-man roster were not on the team last season. All but eight of the new players have been in the league for three years or less. Here's a list of the new arrivals:

	Pos.	Age	Yr.
Shane Matthews	QB	23	R
Robert Green	RB	23	2
Kevin Miniefield	CB	23	R
Keshon Johnson	CB	23	R
Tim Worley	RB	27	4
Craig Heyward	FB	27	6
Anthony Blaylock	CB	28	6
Vinson Smith	LB	28	7
Joe Cain	LB	28	5
Gene McGuire	C	23	2
Tory Epps	DT	26	4
Albert Fontenot	DL	23	R
Todd Perry	OL	22	R
Curtis Conway	WR	22	R
Fred Banks	WR	31	8
Terry Obee	WR	25	1
Chris Gedney	TE	23	R
Willie Harris	WR	22	R
Ryan Wetnight	TE	22	R
Myron Baker	LB	22	R
Barry Minter	LB	23	R
Percy Snow	LB	25	4
Carl Simpson	DT	23	R

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A SMORGASBORD OF TALENT

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

As problems go, it ranks right up there with sticking your head inside the refrigerator and being forced to choose between a big tasty bowl of pasta and a juicy burger.

Even though Dave Wannstedt sent his "Refrigerator" out of town, his defensive line remains fully stocked with productive veterans, rising stars and promising youngsters. The only dilemma is finding enough time to get everybody on the field.

Alonzo Spellman, for instance, needs game experience but is having a difficult time cracking the lineup with Richard Dent playing perhaps the best football of his life.

"It's a difficult thing, but it's a nice problem to have," Wannstedt said. "I think Alonzo played 17 or 18 plays against the Raiders. We go in with a plan that he's going to play so much and give Richard a break, but it's easier said than done. It doesn't always work out that way. Then the game's over and he doesn't get as much work as you would have liked."

Spellman excels against the run but needs to improve his pass rush.

"Alonzo has really come along well," said defensive line coach Clarence Brooks. "He has really stepped up his game from the beginning of the season. He's getting on the field more and he's doing more things for us."

Depth on defensive line creates problem any coach would love

He's becoming better as a pass rusher as time goes on. We expect some good things from him because he's got an awful lot of talent."

Through eight games, Dent leads the Bears with 7.5 sacks. He has 37 tackles and even one interception. The line's other starters—left end Trace Armstrong, left tackle Steve McMichael and right tackle Chris Zorich—are also playing well. Then there's Tim Ryan, who rotates in at tackle, and rookie fourth-round pick Albert Fontenot, who often spells McMichael in passing situations. You can also add to the mix rookie second-round pick Carl Simpson and recent acquisition Tory Epps, both tackles.

In a few years, the starting front four could consist of Spellman (now 22 years old), Simpson (23), Zorich (24) and Fontenot (23).

"We do have a little more youth at that position with those guys," Brooks said. "Hopefully, they will continue to get to where we want to be."

William Perry never had the speed

and lateral quickness to fit into Wannstedt's defense, which requires linemen to make plays from sideline to sideline. On the other hand, Zorich is a prototype in the Bears' new defense. He made a tackle along the sideline 11 yards down field against the Raiders. Zorich leads all linemen with 57 tackles.

"Chris has played extremely well," Brooks said. "We're very happy with all the things he's done."

Perry's release seemingly opens the door in particular for Ryan and Simpson, who was activated against the Raiders for the first time since Week Two. Ryan has fully recovered from a preseason knee injury. Meanwhile, Simpson has been a bit of a disappointment.

"Carl Simpson has been a little slower to develop, although in the last three weeks his practice habits have picked up," Brooks said. "He is a young man who has a lot of ability. We just need to try to get that out of him. We think the way he's practicing the last few weeks, he's ready to get on the field and we'll see what he can do."

Simpson blames part of his lack of success on being late for a meeting earlier this season.

"I'm ready to play. I think I am anyway," Simpson said. "I've been ready, but I put myself in a bad situation early in the season. It was a simple mistake, misjudging traffic."

Simpson recorded 20 sacks from the tackle position his last two seasons at Florida State. It was that production that made him so attractive to the Bears. Only now is Simpson showing some of that flair in practice.

"Hopefully we can get him in the rotation a little bit and see if he can make plays," Wannstedt said. "He needs to be more consistent. Obviously he hasn't had chances in games to be consistent, but he

has been consistent with his practice habits of late and that's the main reason we gave him an opportunity last week."

Simpson, always completely honest with his responses, says he may have lacked some concentration earlier in the season.

"There are a lot of times I'd be in practice and I'd be spaced out," he said. "Now my practices have been on a more consistent level and I've been more aggressive. In the past I think my mind was on some other stuff. Now I've got my mind focused on winning and dedicating all my time to the Bears."

"I know the scheme, but sometimes I had some confusion about what they wanted me to do as far as what techniques they wanted me to use. But now I know exactly what they want."

The close friendship between Zorich and Spellman has propelled each player to greater heights on the field. A similar situation could result with Simpson and Fontenot. The two rookies room together and have forged a bond that exists both on the field and off. The competition between the two is all positive.

"When we're in our pass rush drills we always say 'meet me there or beat me there' as far as getting to the quarterback," Simpson said. "It's a competitive fun thing to get everybody better."

Epps was signed a week after being released by the San Diego Chargers. Wannstedt says he has no plans to activate Epps any time in the near future.

"It will take him two or three weeks to learn the system," Wannstedt said after watching Epps practice for the first time with the Bears last Wednesday. "We'll evaluate him every week and see if he makes progress. He was okay today. He worked hard, but he won't be active for a while."

The Cowboys coveted Epps in the 1990 draft, but the Falcons nabbed him in the eighth round. Epps, who played three seasons with Atlanta, worked out for the Bears a few days before they signed him.

"He was a guy we had decent grades on coming out in the draft, and he was a guy who had some quickness when we worked him out," Wannstedt said. "Maybe down the road he might help us. We'll just see how he works."

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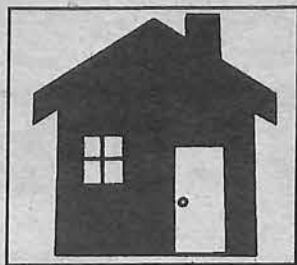
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HOME GAMES

Name: Jeremy Lincoln
Position: Cornerback
College: Tennessee
Ht., Wt.: 5-10, 184
Born: April 7, 1969
Hometown: Toledo, Ohio
Marital status: Single.
Acquired: Selected in third round of 1992 draft.

Hobbies: Playing basketball, traveling and going to movies.

Most prized possession: My Nissan 300ZX.

Best time of my life: College. I had a lot of good times and a lot of good friends.

Worst time of my life: When I got hurt last year. It was rough and frustrating for me.

Worst job I ever had: Shoveling snow when I was about 14. My mom made me go around the neighborhood and shovel snow. But it paid off. I got a little money, but not much.

Most humbling experience: Being real good in college and coming here. You're

a star in college, but sometimes you have to come back to your senses when you come to the NFL. That was pretty humbling.

Personal hero: My uncle, Reggie McDaniel. I grew up watching him. My mom raised me by herself and he was like a big brother to me. He ran track for the University of Cincinnati.

I stay home to watch: "Fresh Prince," "Martin," and HBO.

Athlete I admire most: I have to say Michael Jordan because of everything he's done and everything he's accomplished.

Favorite food: Lasagna.

Best thing about being a Bear: Being in a town this size and the attention you get. You might not be the star of the team, but people still know you, so that's a good feeling.

I've never been able to: Go to Hawaii.

If I wasn't playing football I'd be: Maybe running track somewhere, but

probably just working in marketing or something like that.

I'd give anything to meet: Malcolm X.

Growing up I wanted to be: A basketball player. I thought I was going to be a star. I played in high school and was "All-City." I guess I had more propositions to come out for football, so I took that.

Favorite childhood memory: When I scored the winning touchdown in a championship game when I was playing wide receiver in a Pee Wee football league.

Favorite movie: I liked "Scarface." I thought that was great.

One word that best describes me: Quiet.



Jeremy Lincoln thought he was destined to be a basketball player. He obviously made the right career choice, however. Lincoln has started in place of injured cornerback Anthony Blaylock and has done an excellent job.

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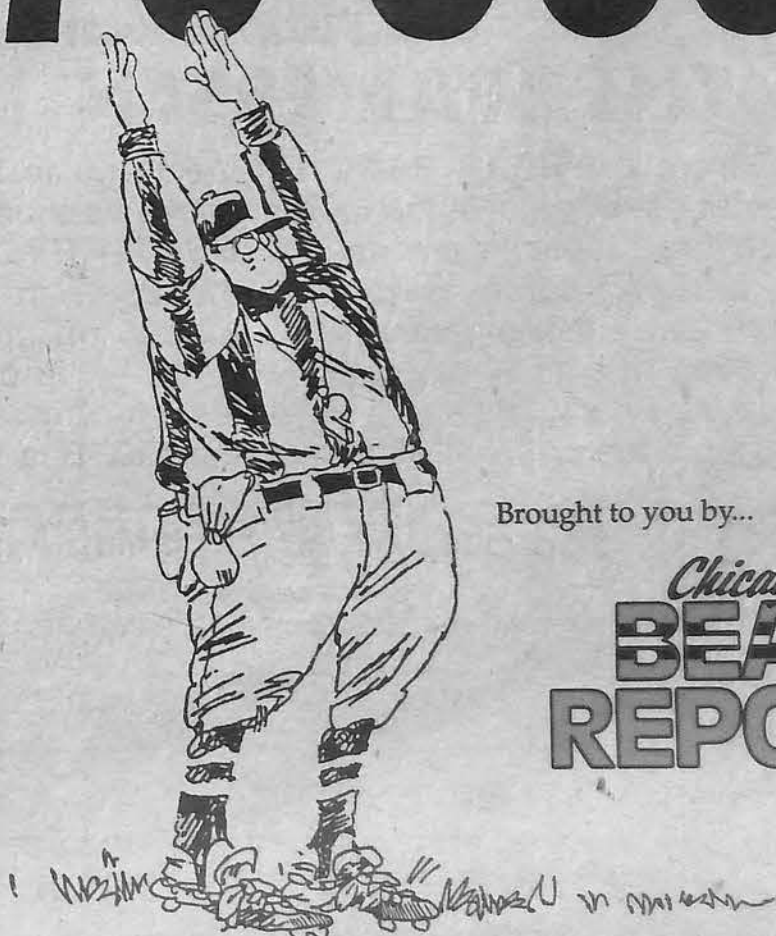
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Bears boot Chargers

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

On this night, the shoe of despair would be on the other foot.

One week after a demoralizing loss that would be titled "My Right Foot" in a screen adaptation, placekicker Kevin Butler and the Bears bounced back Sunday night in San Diego. Butler was perfect on three field goal attempts of 33,

54 and 20 yards, while his counterpart, San Diego's John Carney, hooked a 40-yard attempt wide left with 1:11 remaining in the fourth quarter that likely would have sent the game into overtime.

Instead, the Bears escaped with a stirring 16-13 come from behind victory at Jack Murphy Stadium. Cornerback Donnell Woolford's mastery of Chargers receiver Anthony Miller highlighted a stifling defensive effort that kept the

Bears in the game. Though outgained 103-1 in the first quarter, the Bears trailed only 3-0.

Handcuffed early, Chicago's offense came alive in the second half, eventually erasing a 10-0 deficit on Butler's three kicks and a 38-yard TD pass from Jim Harbaugh to Curtis Conway. The victory snapped a three-game losing streak and kept the Bears (4-5) within one game of Minnesota and Green Bay in the NFC

Central.

"There was a different feeling coming out after halftime and that's a great credit to the leaders on this team," said Bears coach Dave Wannstedt, who singled out Steve McMichael, Richard Dent, Tim Worley and Conway. "It was just a great team effort and a heck of a win."

Trailing 10-6, the Bears marched 66 yards down to the Chargers' 3-yard line on their first possession of the third quarter. After Anderson was stuffed for no gain on third-and-goal from the two, Butler's 20-yard field goal drew Chicago to within 10-9 with 4:55 left in the quarter.

After Chargers quarterback John Friesz misfired on three consecutive passes, Terry Obee's 24-yard punt return gave the Bears the ball at the San Diego 38. Conway hesitated short, then put on the burners, beating cornerback Sean Vanhorne to the left corner of the end zone for a touchdown that gave the Bears a 16-10 advantage with 4:08 remaining in the third quarter. This time, Harbaugh's pass was on target and Conway held on despite getting bumped on the play.

The Chargers responded with an 18-play, 67-yard drive that burned 8:03 off the clock. Woolford made the play of the game—one of several spectacular individual efforts by the Bears' superb cornerback—by batting the ball away from Miller on third-and-goal from the seven. San Diego was forced to settle for Carney's 24-yard field goal that made it 16-13 with 11:05 left in the final period.

"Donnell Woolford has been getting better and better every week," Wannstedt said. "We matched him up for the most part against a great player in Miller, and he went after him from the first play."

Looking for insurance points, Chicago drove to the San Diego 31. But Harbaugh threw an ill-advised pass intended for fullback Bob Christian that was intercepted by Chargers linebacker Gary Plummer with just under seven minutes to play. Harbaugh was under pressure from a blitz on the play.

San Diego drove to the Chicago 23, but bruising running back Natrone Means was dropped a yard short of a first down on third-and-two. Looking for the tie, Carney then missed badly to the left. Bolstered by an 11-yard dash around left end by Anderson, Chicago ran out the clock, evening its road record at 2-2.

The defense was the only reason the Bears were even in a position to win the game late. They repeatedly saved the Bears' offense from adversity. Carney's 28-yard field goal gave San Diego a 3-0 lead with 9:04 left in the first quarter after Dante Jones stuffed Ronnie Harmon on third-and-four from the nine. After a Harbaugh fumble at the Bears' 20 a few minutes later, rookie second round pick Carl Simpson blocked Carney's 30-yard field goal attempt.

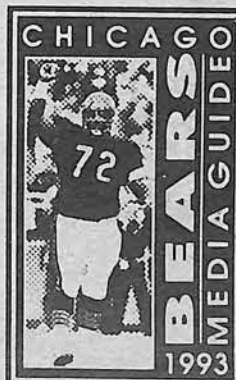
San Diego's John Kidd made it 10-0 on a 2-yard TD run off a fake field goal early in the second half before Butler's second quarter kicks of 33 and 54 yards drew the Bears to within 10-6.



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By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

The Bears didn't exactly shackle cornerback Anthony Blaylock to a chair, direct a spotlight into his eyes and force him to tell all his secrets. But that doesn't mean Blaylock didn't feel a little like an interrogated spy as he coughed up information about his old team last week in advance of Sunday night's game at San Diego.

"I've been helping out the defense a lot, but I'm supposed to help out the offense, too," said Blaylock, who played with the Chargers for a season and a half before signing with the Bears as an unrestricted free agent this past offseason.

"I guess I'm going to be the stool pigeon this week and just squeal and tell everything I know. They've been asking me a few little things to help them out. I'm just trying to give them a few little hints here and there about personnel and tendencies, like some of the stuff they like to do on certain downs, and who to look for and who not to look for in certain situations."

Given San Diego's tremendous bal-

"He's the best line-backer in the world."

--Anthony Blaylock on the Chargers' Junior Seau

ance on offense, figuring out who to look for is crucial. Heading into Sunday night's game, quarterback John Friesz had completed 86 of 153 passes (56.2 percent) for 1,008 yards, five touchdowns and only two interceptions. Other weapons include bruising running back Marion Butts (93 carries, 339 yards, 3.6 yards per carry, three TDs), third down specialist Ronnie Harmon (38 catches for 360 yards) and wide receiver Anthony Miller (43 catches for 586 yards and four TDs).

"They mix so many things up that it's hard to pinpoint one thing," said Blaylock, who remains out of the lineup with ligament damage in his hand.

Despite entering the game with an offense ranked 18th in the NFL, San Diego's attack posed a multitude of concerns for Bears coach Dave Wannstedt.

"If you look at how they score their points, they run the ball and control the clock, but they also are very effective getting big plays with the passing game," Wannstedt said. "They've got an all-pro receiver in Miller and probably the best nickel back in the business in Harmon."

"They've got several weapons who can put the ball in the end zone."

One unique match-up was Chicago's 28th-ranked passing attack against San Diego's 28th ranked pass defense. Not exactly a match made in heaven. Wannstedt promised not to be distracted by the Chargers' previous tendency to be

Blaylock spills his guts hoping to aid new team

Stopping Miller crucial to victory

weak against the pass. On the other hand, the Chargers entered the contest ranked second against the run.

"We still need to get better running the football," Wannstedt said last Wednesday. "Just because they're ranked 28th, they still make big plays. They beat the Raiders and the Vikings with long interception returns. That can be deceiving that their secondary isn't playing well. They're giving up yardage, but they're coming up with big plays."

Friesz and the Chargers offense is not vulnerable to the blitz because of zone-matching protection that allows him to generally remain in the pocket.

"It's hard to tell how he reacts to blitzing because they do a good job of match protecting," said Bears safety Mark Carrier. "He has a strong arm and he has taken a few hits this year, so I think more and more he's trying to get rid of the ball a little quicker when he sees a rush coming."

Carrier was a teammate of San Diego linebacker Junior Seau at USC. Blaylock played with Seau with the Chargers and has lofty praise for his former teammate.

"He's the best linebacker in the world," Blaylock said. "The guy works so hard and he plays at a different level."

He hears people say that about Michael Jordan. Junior's just a competitor. He's the type of guy you can't talk to before a game. He gets that pumped before every game. You can talk to him the day before, but the day of the game he walks around the lockerroom yelling and getting pumped up.

"I've never played against anybody who's that fierce of a competitor."

GAME NOTES: The following Bears were placed on the inactive list for Sunday's contest: QB Shane Matthews, CB Markus Paul, CB Anthony Blaylock, DT Tory Epps, T James Williams, WR Willie Harris, TE Ryan Wetnight and LB Barry Minter. Only Blaylock (hand) missed the game with an injury.

...Terry Obee continued to handle punt return duties and did an excellent job. He made no poor decisions and even set up the winning touchdown with a whirling 24-yard return down to the Chargers' 30-yard line.

...Sunday night's game marked the start of the Bears' longest road swing in 12 seasons. The Bears haven't played three consecutive road games since 1981, when they faced Tampa Bay (lost 20-10), Kansas City (won 16-13) and Green Bay (lost 21-17). The Bears visit Kansas City this Sunday before taking on the Lions at the Pontiac Silverdome on Thanksgiving.

...The Bears and Chargers have played six times and the Bears have now won twice. Their only previous win was a 20-17 overtime victory in 1981 at Soldier Field. The Chargers, with quarterback Dan Fouts leading the offense, were prohibitive favorites that day.

NFL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE							AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
Central							Eastern						
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA		W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Detroit.....	7	2	0	.778	187	140	Buffalo.....	7	1	0	.875	172	97
Green Bay.....	5	4	0	.556	198	161	Miami.....	7	2	0	.778	201	159
Minnesota.....	5	4	0	.556	198	161	Indianapolis.....	3	6	0	.333	145	210
Chicago.....	4	5	0	.444	142	124	New England.....	1	8	0	.111	113	200
Tampa Bay.....	2	7	0	.222	120	251							
Eastern							Central						
Dallas.....	7	2	0	.778	206	126	Pittsburgh.....	5	3	0	.625	192	136
N.Y. Giants.....	6	3	0	.667	180	118	Cleveland.....	5	4	0	.556	168	181
Philadelphia.....	4	5	0	.444	155	191	Houston.....	5	4	0	.556	206	157
Phoenix.....	3	7	0	.300	183	176	Cincinnati.....	0	9	0	.000	100	224
Washington.....	2	7	0	.222	145	229							
Western							Western						
New Orleans.....	6	3	0	.667	200	173	Kansas City.....	7	2	0	.778	164	144
San Francisco.....	6	3	0	.667	255	179	Denver.....	5	4	0	.556	229	175
Atlanta.....	3	6	0	.333	184	222	L.A. Raiders.....	5	4	0	.556	172	178
L.A. Rams.....	2	7	0	.222	131	205	Seattle.....	5	5	0	.500	165	169
							San Diego.....	4	5	0	.444	157	183

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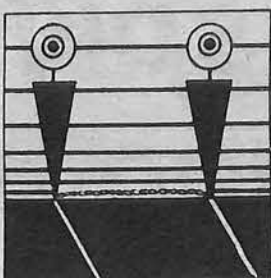
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GAME STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

Bears.....	0	6	10	0	16
Chargers.....	3	7	0	3	13
Chargers, 1, 9:04, J. Carney, 28 yd. field goal (11-40, 5:28), 3-0					
Chargers, 2, 14:49, J. Kidd, 2 yd. run (J. Carney, kick) (9-54, 4:07), 0-10					
Bears, 2, 4:52, K. Butler, 33 yd. field goal (11-39, 5:13), 3-10					
Bears, 2, 2:26, K. Butler, 54 yd. field goal (4-1, 1:00), 6-10					
Bears, 3, 4:55, K. Butler, 20 yd. field goal (12-66, 6:47), 9-10					
Bears, 3, 4:08, C. Conway, 38 yd. pass from J. Harbaugh (K. Butler, kick) (1-38, 0:08), 16-10					
Chargers, 4, 11:05, J. Carney, 26 yd. field goal (19-67, 8:03), 16-13					

	Bears	Chargers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	14	19
By Rushing	5	8
By Passing	8	11
By Penalty	1	0
3RD DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	4	7
Attempted	11	18
Percent Made	36%	39%
4TH DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	0	2
Attempted	0	2
Percent Made	0%	100%
TOTAL NET YARDS	224	256
Total Off. Plays	52	73
Av. Gain Per Play	4.3	3.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	84	104
Av. Gain Per Rush	3.2	3.3
NET YARDS PASSING	140	152
Yards Lost	19	32
Gross Yds. Passing	159	184
Attempts	24	38
Completions	13	19
Interceptions	1	0
Av. Gain Per Pass Pl.	5.4	3.7
PUNTS	3	5
Yards	113.1	188.0
Average	37.7	37.6
Had Blocked	0	0
PENALTIES	1	3
Yards	10	24
FUMBLES	1	0
Lost	1	0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	1
Rushing	0	1
Passing	1	0
Returns	0	0
FIELD GOALS MADE	3	2
Attempted	3	4
TIME OF POSSESSION	26:26	33:34

CHICAGO BEARS

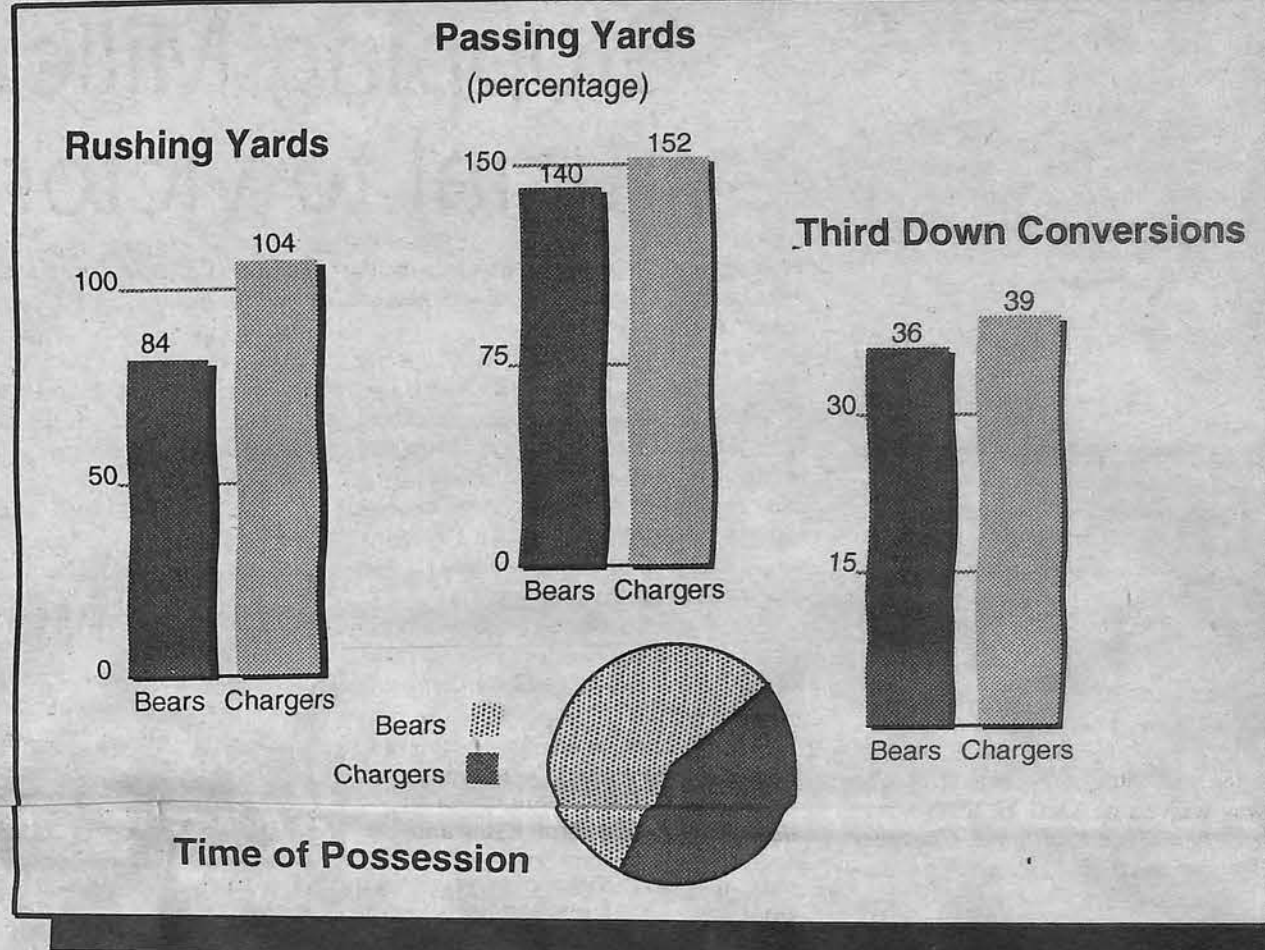
RUSHING	No.	Yds.
Worley	11	33
Anderson	7	32
Conway	1	18
Harbaugh	4	3
Heyward	1	1
Christian	2	-3

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Anderson	3	22	11	0
Waddle	3	16	8	0
Conway	2	50	38	1
Christian	2	40	36	0
Jennings	2	21	13	0
Worley	1	10	10	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Gardocki	3	113	37.7	0	1	39

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Obee	3	1	39	25	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Conway	4	0	39	13	0



SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

RUSHING	No.	Yds.
Means	18	69
Butts	10	17
Harmon	2	5
Kidd	1	2
Friesz	1	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Harmon	6	43	10	0
Miller	4	46	21	0
Jefferson	4	45	16	0
Walker	3	25	10	0
Barnes	2	25	15	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Plummer	1	1	1	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Kidd	5	188	37.6	0	1	43

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Gordon	0	3	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Bieniemy	4	0	57	18	0
Harmon	1	0	18	18	0

CHICAGO BEARS

Unofficial	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Jones	11	1	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	5	0	1	9	0	1	0
Woolford	5	0	0	0	0	2	0

Cain	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrier	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zorich	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Armstrong	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cox	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spellman	2	0	1	12	0	0	0
Dent	1	0	1	11	0	0	0
Mangum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simpson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Unofficial	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Seau	7	0	0	0	0	1	0
Plummer	5	1	0	0	1	1	0
Frank	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrington	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hendrickson	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richard	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
O'Neal	3	0	1	13	0	0	0
Vanhorse	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grossman	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Winter	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gordon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mims	1	0	1	6	0	0	0
Pope	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Anno	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fuller	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fridge defrosted in favor of Epps

One week it is Jim Morrissey. Another week it is Darren Lewis. Then Tom Thayer.

Last week it was William Perry.

Who will be the next Bears veteran to be handed a pink slip?

Morrissey signed with the Green Bay Packers and Thayer with the Miami Dolphins last week. Perry was claimed by the Philadelphia Eagles the day after getting the ax from the Bears.

The Eagles had been decimated by injuries to several key defensive players, including Keith Millard, Clyde Simmons, Byron Evans and Tim Harris.

Perry, another key remnant from the Mike Ditka era, was cast aside by coach Dave Wannstedt.

Virtually forgotten this season in the team's new scheme, Perry was waived to make room on the roster for defensive lineman Tory Epps.

Epps was an eighth round draft pick of the Atlanta Falcons in 1990 out of Memphis State.

"When coach Wannstedt was with the Cowboys, he came to Memphis State and we met and talked a little philosophy," said Epps. "So I pretty much knew coming here what he expected and what he liked."

At 6-foot-1 and 280 pounds, Epps fits the mold of the smaller, quicker defensive tackle that Wannstedt has been accumulating. Epps played in every Falcons game the past three years with 22 starts. He was waived on Oct. 14 after seven games, then signed with the Chargers Oct. 20 before being released by San Diego a week later. Epps didn't fit into San Diego's scheme, which features jumbo 300-pound tackles.

"I would have to say that I have decent quickness for a guy my size," said Epps. "And I like to be called a sideline-to-sideline player. I am about a 4.9 man (in the 40-yard dash), which is decent speed. Nothing great. But I have acceleration off the ball the first 10 yards. I think I can fit into this defense and make a decent contribution."

Perry, 31, was inactive for the first time in his career when the Bears lost 16-14 to the Los Angeles Raiders.

"William was the way William has always been. He was very upfront and we were honest about the situation," said Wannstedt of his meeting with Perry. "He looked me in the eye and William has got a lot inside him. William will be

FRED MITCHELL



successful whether he is playing football or not."

The Bears paid Perry 10/18ths of his base salary of \$750,000, and they owe him a \$20,000 termination payment. He already received a bonus for offseason workouts. The Bears could have cut Perry after the first four or five weeks of the season and they would have owed him the same amount of money as they do now.

"These decisions are not easy ones, particularly when you are talking about what a fine person and excellent football player William Perry is and has been for the Bears," said Wannstedt.

"This is not a money issue, this is not a youth-movement issue. We are in a situation where we need to get some other guys a little bit of playing time. I think every new staff experiences this. It was just something that had to be done."

Early uncertainty about the health of defensive tackle Tim Ryan and the potential of young linemen Chris Zorich and rookie Carl Simpson behooved Wannstedt to keep Perry around another month.

"I think this has been thought about and contemplated within the organization ever since the beginning of the year in some respects. With the emergence of that defense and that defensive line, I don't think it is too much of a surprise," said Perry's agent, Jim Steiner.

"William is a very, very good player," said Zorich. "A lot of people said that I came in and I am a lot quicker and a lot faster. But if it wasn't for William, I would have no idea about taking on a double-team or anything like that. We are always trying to learn from him."

Perry's 28.5 career sacks trail only Richard Dent and Steve McMichael among active Bears.

"The game against the Raiders, I had a chance to make a couple of plays and there were some plays I kind of got killed on. I went off to the side and William kind of grabbed me and told me what I was doing wrong. So he is definitely going to be missed," said Zorich.

There were times, early in his career with the Bears, when Perry was treated more as a public curiosity than as an accomplished football player.

Ditka would extol Perry's virtues as a lineman one day, then publicly criticize his weight and work habits the next.

"I think you have to point to Mike Ditka in terms of making Fridge the household name that he was back in '85 and '86," said Steiner. "He created the phenomenon by putting the ball in his hands. William, being the athlete that he is, was able to carry it off and be successful at it."

"Even though they had their differences, I think most of that conflict between the two was Mike's way of dealing with players. I think Mike was the guy who really fought to draft him," said Steiner. "He was his guy. But Mike's style was different than most guys. In some ways, I think William saw through Mike Ditka fairly well. He didn't let the

rhetoric bother him."

During one offseason five years ago, Perry's weight ballooned to 400 pounds.

The notoriety earned Perry millions of dollars in endorsements following the Bears' Super Bowl championship in January of 1986. But the growing media depiction of Perry as a laughable character sent him into virtual seclusion in subsequent years. He avoided opportunities to make commercial money poking fun at his weight.

Ditka's mixed signals continued. After former 49ers coach Bill Walsh used guard Guy McIntyre to block in the backfield when San Francisco defeated the Bears in a 1984 playoff game, Ditka began using Perry as a goal-line and short-yardage fullback. Perry ended up with three rushing touchdowns, including one in Super Bowl XX.

"William started, I believe, 94 games here and he was the only rookie (beside kicker Kevin Butler) to start on that Super Bowl team..... I just wish I had had an opportunity to experience some of those moments with William Perry," said Wannstedt.

Fred Mitchell covers the Bears for the Chicago Tribune.



William Perry became a national phenomenon when he joined the Bears' short yardage offense as the world's largest blocking back and ball carrier in 1985.

Perry on Offense

Date	Opponent	Result
10-13-85	at San Francisco	2 rushes for 4-yards
10-21-85	GREEN BAY	1 rush for 1-yard TD
11-03-85	at Green Bay	1 catch for 1-yard TD
11-17-85	at Dallas	1 rush for 1-yard
11-24-85	ATLANTA	1 rush for 1-yard TD
01-26-86	New England	1 rush for 1-yard TD
		Sacked for -1-yard
11-23-86	GREEN BAY	1 rush, -1-yard, fumble
11-16-87	at Denver	1 rush, 0-yards, fumble
10-07-90	GREEN BAY	1 rush for -1-yard

Perry finished his defensive career with 452 tackles, nine forced fumbles, five fumble recoveries and 28.5 sacks.

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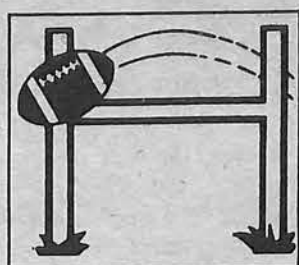
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EXTRA POINTS

PERRY LEAVES GOOD MEMORIES BEHIND

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

William Perry was playing on borrowed time, so his release last week wasn't much of a surprise. Though his contribution was minimal this season, he left a legacy among veteran players who were fortunate enough to experience "Fridge mania" during its inception in 1985.

"I don't want to sound like he passed away, because that's the furthest thing from the truth because of the opportunities ahead for him," said safety Shaun Gayle. "But what can you say? He's been a fixture here in Chicago for so long. He's one of the few guys left in the NFL you can truly call a warrior because of the way he played regardless of the conditions or how he felt."

In nine seasons, Perry recorded 452 recoveries and 28.5 sacks. His exploits on offense were what gained him international renown, however. He burst on the scene during a Monday Night Football game against the Packers during his rookie season in 1985.

Perry flattened Packers linebacker George Cumby with a monstrous block that allowed Walter Payton to glide into the end zone. Perry scored a touchdown later in the same game by again demolishing Cumby and caught a 4-yard TD pass from Jim McMahon in a later game at Green Bay. Perry capped his magical season by scoring on a 1-yard run in Super Bowl XX.

Though Mike Ditka helped create the Fridge phenomenon, he also helped destroy it by issuing yearly ultimatums about Perry's weight. Perry never reached the weight goals Ditka set, but the coach always relented from his

promise to send Perry out of town.

Ironically, Perry was waived not by Ditka but by new coach Dave Wannstedt, and it had nothing to do with weight. Hampered by a nagging knee injury that limited his mobility, Perry never fit into Wannstedt's defensive scheme. Perry signed with the Philadelphia Eagles last week and was expected to start last Sunday against the Miami Dolphins.

"He's a great ballplayer, and when we needed to do something he was always the anchor," said defensive end Richard Dent. "Some young ballplayers have to step up now and take on that position. He and Steve McMichael have always been the guys we've depended upon."

"When I thought about William I never had to worry about the inside on the run, and he never had to worry about a guy getting outside with me there. We had a great relationship. I'm going to miss that, and more than anything I'm going to miss his friendship and being able to have that communication every day with him."

"We always will be best of friends."

Perry's release served as a painful reminder about how fleeting fame can be.

"A situation like this makes it very clear that this type of business has its ups and downs," Gayle said. "Of course, this is the downside. None of us can play forever. You especially hate to see guys go who've you created friendships with."

"He went through some tough times with the media and the past coaching staff about his weight. But he never shied away from a situation. He always showed up on Sunday and played well."



Shaun Gayle and William Perry teamed up to force this Miami fumble during a 1991 game. Gayle called Perry "a warrior because of the way he played regardless of the conditions or how he felt." The Bears released Perry last week and signed Tory Epps.

ACHES & PAINS: The Bears are healing. Cornerback Anthony Blaylock is the only player who remains sidelined indefinitely with an injury. Blaylock had surgery to repair ligament damage in his hand. He spent last week doing exercises to increase flexibility. The progress, however, was slow.

"I'm dying. I'm still not making it," Blaylock said. "I can't really move my fingers and I'm trying to get some movement in my hand. That's the important part. Once I get some movement back in it, maybe I can do some stuff."

Blaylock suffered the injury in a 19-12 Monday Night Football loss to the Vikings Oct. 25. He doesn't expect to return until the Dec. 12 game at Tampa Bay.

"Hopefully before that, but I kind of doubt it," he said.

Jeremy Lincoln has done an excellent job in Blaylock's place. Lincoln's first two tests included the Packers and Sterling Sharpe, followed by the Raiders and their bevy of speedy pass catchers.

"I think the guys are playing great," Blaylock said. "I'm extremely proud of Jeremy Lincoln. I think he's doing a great job. They're really coming together as a team on defense."

Other injured players returned to full speed at practice last week. Wide receiver Curtis Conway has been bothered by a sore shoulder suffered in Green Bay Oct. 31. He missed the second half of that game, then played sporadically last week against the Raiders. Conway's workload is expected to increase. Barring further injury he'll return kicks and start at receiver along with Tom Waddle. Conway missed the early part of the season with a nagging ankle injury.

Another rookie draft pick who's been hurt is tight end Chris Gedney. A sore heel kept Gedney out of two games, but he was expected to return Sunday night at San Diego. Tackle Keith Van Horne (bicep tear) is also back doing everything at practice, but he won't be rushed back

into the lineup. There was talk late last week about perhaps beginning to insert Van Horne as the third tight end in short yardage situations.



RARING TO GO: Running back Tim Worley has recovered from a groin pull, but that doesn't mean he'll see much action in the near future. Wannstedt, pleased with the play of starter Neal Anderson, is an advocate of keeping one halfback in the game the majority of the time and has no plans to make a switch although he'd like to see what Worley can do.

"How do you get him in the game?" Wannstedt said. "I truly believe that you can't evaluate a tailback on half a dozen carries. If they would've evaluated Emmitt Smith on his first half a dozen carries in the Super Bowl, you would've put somebody else in."

"It takes a tailback a while to get going. Right now Neal is playing good. We're trying to get Tim in the game. But Tim understands that."

Worley touched the ball for the first time as a Bear when he returned a kickoff 24 yards in the 16-14 loss to the Raiders Nov. 7. Worley may be inserted into the lineup along with Anderson, but he will not be the featured back unless Anderson is injured.



CATCHING ON: In addition to Perry, the following former Bears were claimed on waivers last week: Guards Tom Thayer (Dolphins) and Vernice Smith (Redskins) and linebacker Jim Morrissey (Packers). Other Bears cut by Wannstedt who've hooked on with other teams include quarterback Will Furrer (Cardinals) and receiver Anthony Morgan (Packers).

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It was a kind of bittersweet consolation that the Silver and Black brought to Soldier Field. The Los Angeles Raiders are a mediocre team in a mediocre year for a mediocre league. But they still fully believe that they are something they no longer are.

The studied arrogance dripped like venom from the fangs of the self-important vipers who pretend to be the present-day Raiders.

Never mind that owner Al Davis—the erstwhile shrewd shaman who dresses like an aging Hell's Angel—is out of touch and hopelessly weird.

Forget the fact that their pass offense Week 10 at wind-chilled Soldier Field consisted of a bunch of sprinters looking for a first-class upgrade back to the Santa Monica Track Club.

And never mind that the cockiest franchise in professional football history hasn't won a truly meaningful playoff game in 10 years.

These are the Raiders. Gangs wear their colors. Fear is the poison they still believe they can strike at will into the hearts of their opponents.

"We made the game closer than it should have been," said Art Shell, the Raiders coach who used to be a Raiders offensive lineman.

Wrong.

Bears placekicker Kevin Butler made when he missed a 21-yard chip shot and a 30-yard attempt, both in the fourth quarter.

Pride and poise? Nah, current-day Raiders a myth

BRIAN HEWITT



"I thought that was a bad call," said Anderson.

Now who was crying?

Anderson had intercepted a Harbaugh pass early in the second quarter and returned it 25 yards to the Bears' 1-yard line. Moments later, the Raiders scored a touchdown and led 10-0.

Bears offensive coordinator Ron Turner said Harbaugh made a mistake on his read and should have thrown the ball to the other side. He chose to be honest.

Anderson's version was much more self-aggrandizing. "These quarterbacks make a lot of money," he said. "They think they can throw the ball in any-

where. Unfortunately for him I was in the right place at the right time."

And so it went. Davis, surrounded by sycophants in his seat at the north end of the main press box, muttered and cursed.

"Don't be coming near me with any questions," Trapp hissed in the winners' locker room. "No comment."

In Week Nine the Raiders had handed a game to the San Diego Chargers when their quarterback, Jeff Hostetler threw two interceptions at the worst possible

time. Against the Bears they hiked their record to 5-3 because the opposition couldn't make a short field goal on the last play of the game.

The Raiders are nowhere near as good as their record indicates. Their reputation means little anymore outside their own locker room.

The real Raiders were Upshaw and Otto and Hendricks and Willie Brown. They were Stabler and Villapiano and Casper and Tom Keating.

Today's Raiders are a bunch of loud-mouthed, underachieving counterfeits.

They are, in the worst sense of the word, a myth.

Speaking of myths, a quick footnote to this column:

The notion that William Perry could still help the Bears was an obviously misguided one in training camp. And the after the Raiders' loss when they released "The Refrigerator" halfway through his ninth season.

Perry could move the pile. But he couldn't chase the ball down from the

weak side. And because of that, he didn't fit Dave Wannstedt's shoot-the-gaps style.

As a rookie in 1985 Perry was a delight. He wasn't good with words. But that didn't mean he was dumb. Perry knew very well the effect his gap-toothed, good-natured persona had on people and, later, advertisers.

But by the time the 90s rolled around Perry felt betrayed by Mike Ditka. Ditka and Perry had helped make each other famous. Then Ditka turned Perry into a whipping boy, mostly because of weight problems.

Perry responded by growing sullen, uncooperative and uncommunicative with the media. That's no crime. But it also appeared the angrier he got with Ditka, the more he ate. And that was wrong. It sent a message to his teammates that he didn't care enough for them and the good of the team to get his body into the kind of shape it was during his rookie year.

In at least one sense William Perry is probably glad his career is over. He never loved football the way a Dan Hampton or a Mike Singletary did. But he was a prisoner of his body and his talent. He had to be a football player.

Now he can go about the business of learning what it's like to be a normal person. I've had my differences with Perry over the years. But I hope the adjustment polite society is a smooth one.

He will turn 31 in December.

Brian Hewitt covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.

The studied arrogance dripped like venom from the fangs of the self-important vipers who pretend to be the present-day Raiders.

Just win, baby?

Wrong.

Just win, barely.

The final this time: Raiders 16, Bears 14.

"We should have blown them out," said Raiders' free safety Eddie Anderson. "We know that."

They should have lost.

Penalties have always been part of the mystique of the big, bad, rough, tough and bluff Raiders. Week 10 was no exception. The Bears were penalized five times for 50 yards, the Raiders 11 times for '86 yards. Going into the game the Raiders were the most penalized team in the league by more than 100 yards.

"The Raiders are marked as a dirty team," sniffed backup cornerback Torin Dorn. "The other teams go around whining and crying and getting close calls."

The Raiders, on the other hand, tell us they are all about Pride and Poise.

Nickel defensive back James Trapp was so proud of his abilities as a cover guy that he bumped Terry Obee at the line of scrimmage with 78 seconds remaining and the Raiders ahead by nine.

Obee knocked Trapp's arm away, darted around him on a perfectly-executed fade pattern and gathered in a 13-yard touchdown pass from Jim Harbaugh that cut the Raiders lead to two points.

On the ensuing kickoff Keshon Johnson recovered an onside kick. And one play after that Harbaugh raced 25 yards to the Raiders where Trapp's late hit cost them another 13 yards.

So much for poise.

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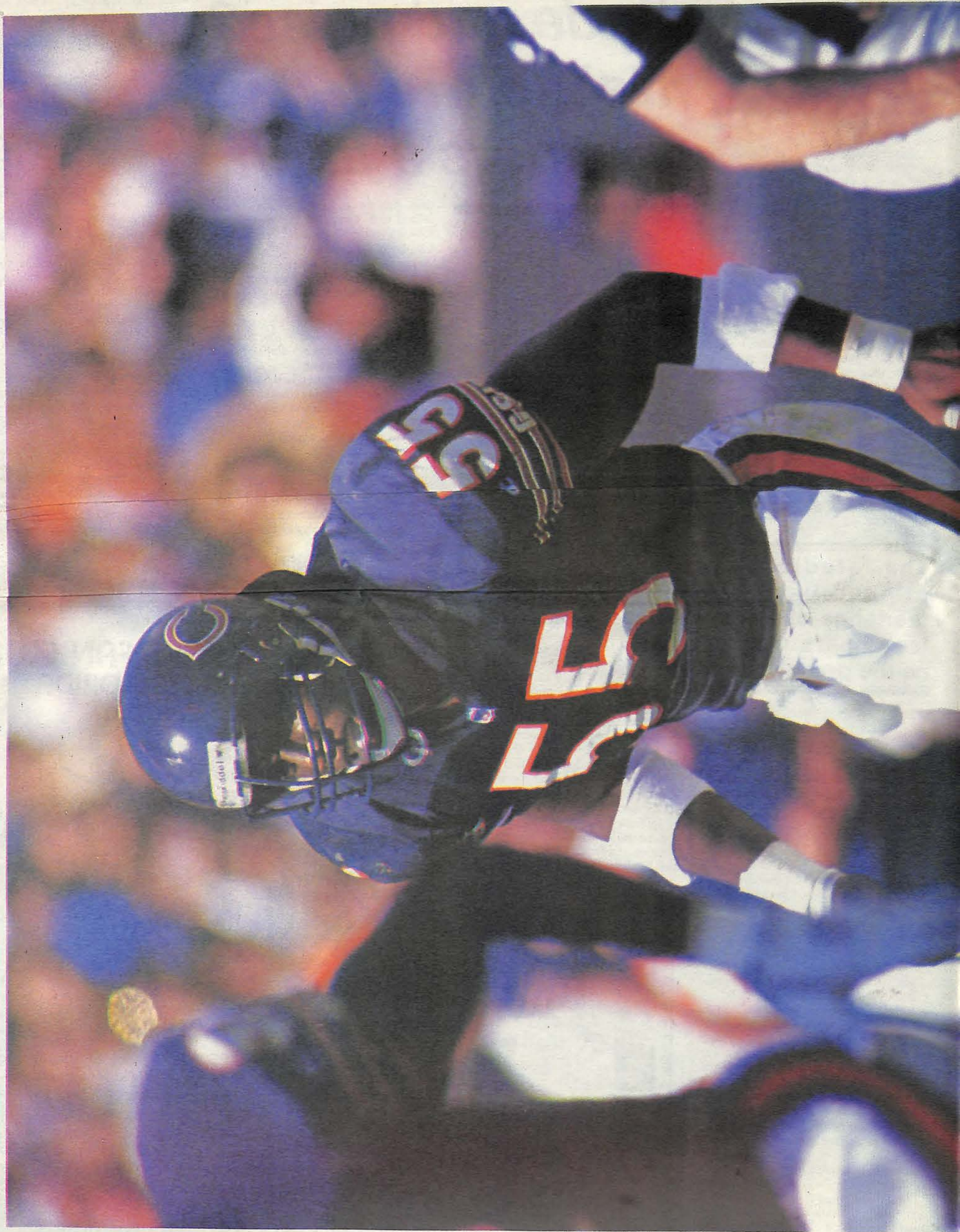
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BEAR REPORT

outside the team's locker room at Halas Hall. Offense, defense and special teams each has its own set of goals. The "X's" in the squares below represent goals that were met. You may want to clip out this page and fill it in as the season progresses.

Really want an inside look at the Chicago Bears? The following charts are posted on giant magnetic boards

[illegible][illegible]

No turnovers, blocks, penalties or fakes allowed.		X												
Kick opponent inside 15-yard line at least once.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Punt net at least 36 with no touchbacks	X		X	X		X	X							
Keep opponent's punt return net to 36 with 1 return of 10	X	X						X						
Convert all PATs and 100% of field goals less than 43 yards	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Convert all fakes														
Defeat special teams opponent; score at least 6 points	X	X			X	X								

Time marches on

DON PIERSON



Within 24 hours, Bernie Kosar and William Perry were released by teams whose identities they once defined. Both arrived in 1985, which suddenly seems like so long ago.

Kosar rejuvenated the Cleveland Browns as a 20-year-old Ohioan who wanted to play for the Browns. This was at a time when Cleveland did not have a very positive image of itself, no thanks to Cleveland jokes that included the Browns.

Perry became the mascot for the most dominant season of the decade, a rookie on a fun-loving bunch of Bears who terrorized opponents. The defense was awesome, thanks in part to Perry's contribution, and the offense was exciting mainly when Perry lumbered into the backfield, upstaging none other than Walter Payton.

They were released for the same reasons, according to official reports. Cleveland coach Bill Belichick cited "production and diminishing physical skills." The Bears are changing directions on their defensive line, something Perry couldn't do very well.

Of the two announcements, Kosar's was by far the more curious. Perry's contributions were minimal this season. He was inactive on his final Sunday. But Kosar was the starting quarterback again on a team that has lost Vinny Testaverde to injury until late in the season.

"It's ironic that my last play for the Browns was something me and Michael Jackson drew up in the dirt that went for a touchdown," Kosar said, barely able to hide his contempt for Belichick's leadership on offense.

While the Bears obviously are rebuilding and finished the halfway mark at 3-5, the Browns were 5-3 and leading the AFC Central Division. With Testaverde hurt and Kosar gone, they turn to untested, unheralded Todd Philcox in the middle of a division race. The move raised eyebrows beyond Cleveland.

"When you're in first place and all of a sudden it's Todd Philcox, that's more than a gamble," said one rival general manager.

What it is should be of real concern to Browns' fans. A power struggle was involved and the coach won. No surprise there. The surprise was that the coach would think it so important to win a power struggle in the middle of an AFC Central Division struggle.

The only way Belichick avoids the second-guessers now is to win the division without the quarterback who took the Browns to the AFC title game three times.

Diminishing skills or not, Kosar is fairly good protection in the stretch. The world champion Dallas Cowboys thought so anyway. They signed him last

Wednesday, the same day Perry was claimed by the Philadelphia Eagles. If the Cowboys can use him, couldn't just about anybody? Belichick established who's boss, which will be important only if he wins.

NOTES AND QUOTES: "The Vikings have the most fearsome pass rush of anybody I've seen since the '85 Bears," said Detroit offensive coordinator Dan Henning.

Steve DeBerg, released by the Bucs, had this assessment of himself before signing with the Miami Dolphins last week: "Actually I lasted 17 years in the NFL with very little talent. It's the truth. People laugh about it but it is the truth. I worked hard at developing my skills and developing my knowledge of the game. And I developed myself into an NFL quarterback. I always thought if I could take my knowledge and expose it to someone with real talent, they could be

one of the real great ones."

This might be the year of the kicker, but kickers will remember Nov. 7 as the day they were kickees. Kevin Butler's failures from 21 and 30 yards were the most dramatic, but his misery had company:

•New England's Scott Sisson missed from 28 yards in a 13-10 overtime loss to Buffalo. The Bills' Steve Christie, who won it from 30 missed an earlier one from 40.

•San Diego's John Carney missed from 37 and blew an extra point that had Minnesota ahead 17-16 in the fourth quarter before the Chargers rallied.

•Washington's Chip Lohmiller missed an extra point, ending a streak of 213 going back to 1988. It was the third-longest string of extra points in NFL history.

•Philadelphia's Matt Bahr missed a 27-yard field goal that wouldn't have been

enough to beat Phoenix.

•Houston's Al Del Greco missed his first extra point since 1989.

FREE AGENCY UPDATE: With every team completing at least half its season, the free agent scorecard looks like this: the good teams are still good; the bad teams are still bad.

Last year's top eight teams, restricted in free agent signings, were Dallas, Buffalo, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Washington, Miami, Philadelphia, and San Diego. All except Washington were within a game of where they were a year ago at midseason.

Atlanta and Tampa Bay paid significantly to upgrade defenses. The Falcons remain 28th, the Bucs 26th.

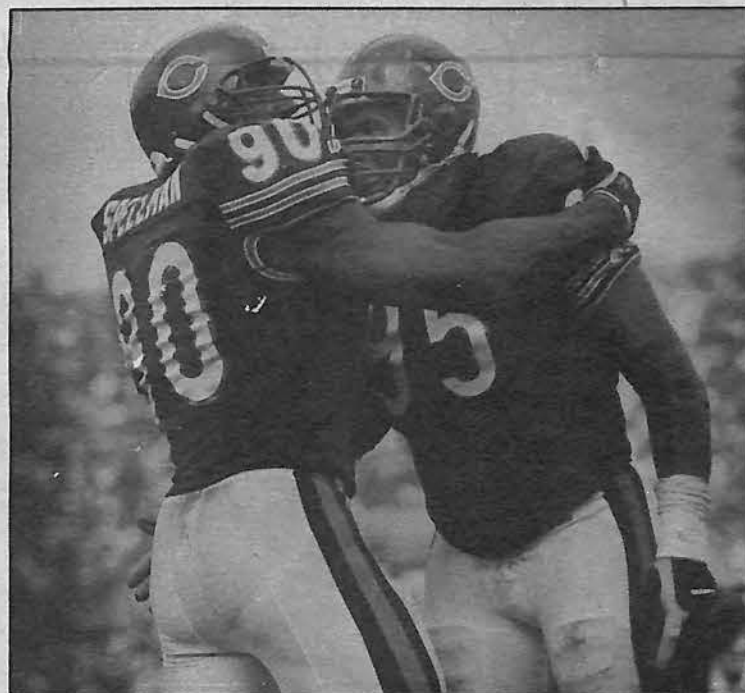
Five teams registered improvement by more than one game—the Lions, Jets, Chiefs, Raiders, and Seahawks. The Lions flipped from 2-7 to 7-2 after adding three starters to their offensive line via free agency.

Bottom line: smart teams find ways to win; dumb ones lose.

Don Pierson covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Tribune.

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B3-2-28

Injuries limiting Montana

By John Delcos
Bear Report Correspondent

The Kansas City Chiefs may very well get to their first Super Bowl in over two decades, and they may do so with Joe Montana as their quarterback.

It could still happen that way.

However, they may take a different road than Montana Highway.

When the Chiefs acquired the future Hall of Famer, coach Marty Schottenheimer could see the scenario: With a string of stirring come-from-behind Montana-led victories, the Chiefs would unseat the Buffalo Bills in the AFC and end up in Atlanta in January.

Maybe later, but it hasn't been that way so far.

With the exception of a flashback Sunday in San Diego, Montana has been what everybody feared: Effective when in the lineup, but all too often he has been on the bench with injuries.

At the halfway point, Montana has played but half the time, with David Krieg, last year's supposed savior, carrying the offense. It will probably stay that way, so the Bears could miss Montana Sunday in Arrowhead.

"We're going to most assuredly make sure he is well before we put him back in there," said Schottenheimer. "We don't want this to become a chronic problem. I have talked with him, and he is quite frustrated by it all."

With Montana on the shelf, the Chiefs are making do with Krieg running their no-frills offense and a search-and-destroy defense featuring blitzing linebacker Derrick Thomas.

Through the first seven games, Kansas

City allowed a league-low 108 points, or 15 a game. Through that same span, the Chiefs had scored only 110. This isn't a team which will get into too many shootouts.

Kansas City's 23-16 victory over Green Bay last Monday night typified most Chiefs' wins. The Packers moved the ball, but couldn't crack the Chiefs' big-play defense. Four times, Brett Favre drove the Packers into the scoring zone, but they came away with only two field goals.

Later, with Green Bay having one more chance inside the two-minute warning, Favre was intercepted.

It has been that way all season.

WHEN THE CHIEFS HAVE THE BALL

Whatever success the Chiefs have, it stems from a huge, punishing offensive line. From left to right, John Alt, Dave Szott, Tim Grunhard, Will Shields and



RB Todd McNair

Ricky Siglar must push the Bears off the line and give Krieg enough time to throw.

Offensively, the Chiefs not only miss Montana, but running back Harvey Williams. Kansas City will try to establish the run with Kimble Anders, Marcus Allen and Todd McNair, and will also attempt to control the ball with tight ends Kerry Cash and Jonathan Hayes.

The Chiefs have some outside speed in receivers J.J. Birden and Willie Davis, but haven't been able to consistently establish the run to open up their deep game.

Two years ago, the Chiefs signed Krieg away from Seattle with the thought he would be the missing link. He wasn't, which led to the pursuit of Montana in the offseason, and recently-cut Cleveland Browns passer Bernie Kosar.

Krieg threw a deep ball with the Seahawks, but that isn't the focus of the Chiefs' offense. He is a streaky passer, who can riddle any secondary when hot. However, when cold, he can look very ordinary.

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

This is a big-play defense, and it begins with the pass rush.

End Neil Smith is having a tremendous season, and it was his pressure which rattled Favre.

The focal point, however, has been the reassignment of Thomas. The Chiefs attempted to use him as a down rusher, but that took away many of the tools which made him so successful as a linebacker.

As a linebacker, he could lineup on

How they match-up

	Offense		
	Overall	Rush	Pass
Bears	28	13	28
Chiefs	19	17	15
	Defense		
Bears	7	17	4
Chiefs	6	3	17

either side, or anyplace on the line and shoot the gaps; as an end, he was restricted to one side. Also, as an end, those huge offensive tackles were able to meet Thomas immediately off the snap, and with Thomas weighing in at 242 pounds, they were able to outmuscle him.

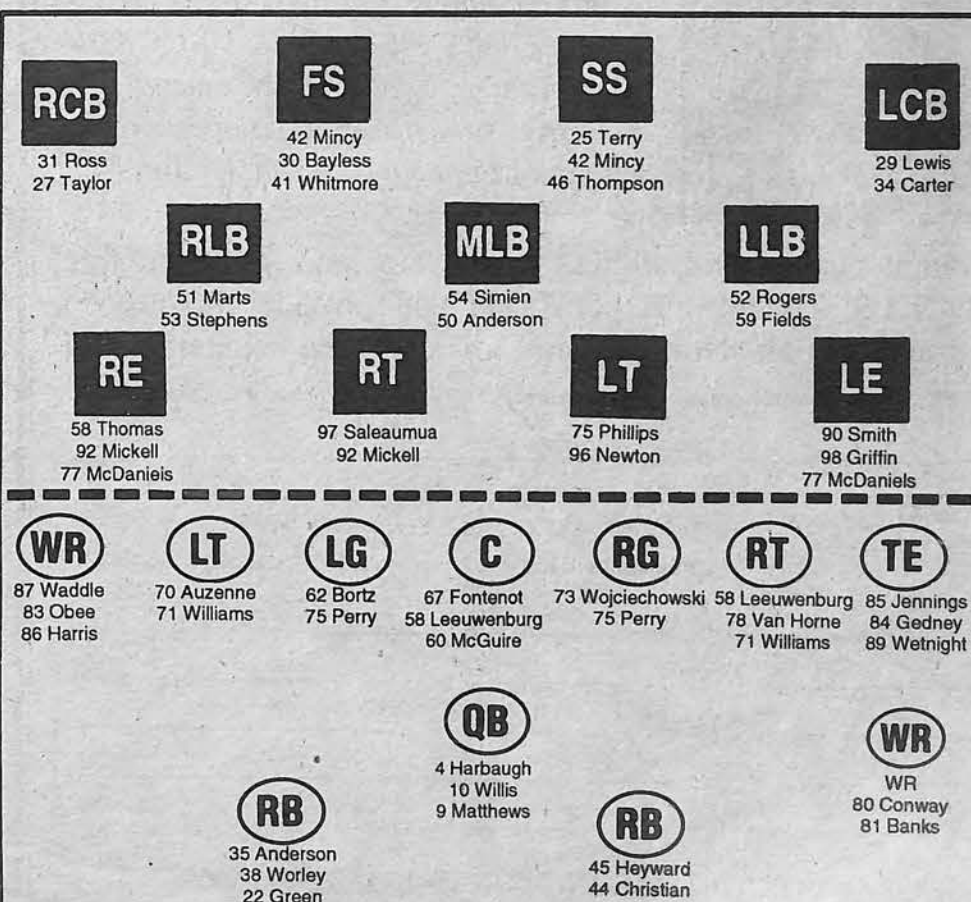
Schottenheimer and defensive coordinator Dave Adolph were able to recognize that and moved him back to linebacker, where he responded with five sacks in five games.

"I wasn't thrilled about being a down lineman," said Thomas, who has 58 sacks over the past four years. "I was very disappointed about that. But the way my position as a 'rush backer' has evolved, I never have to do what a defensive end does."

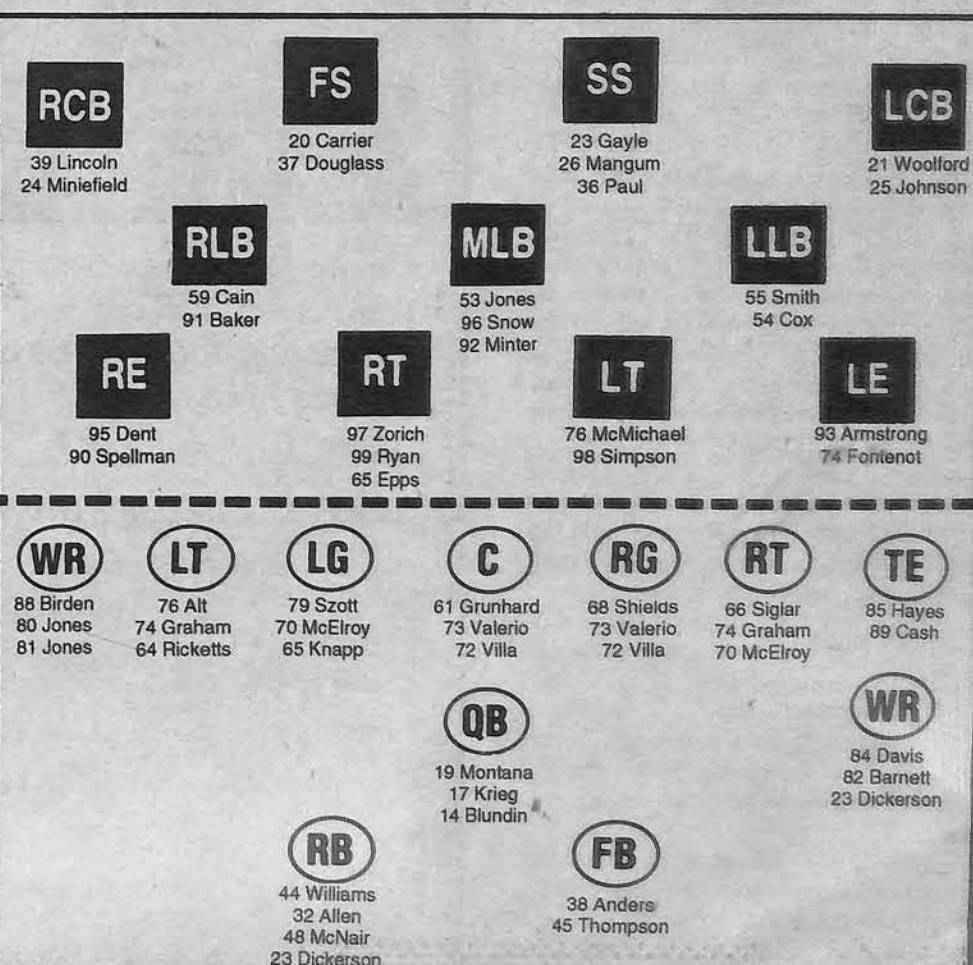
HOW TO BEAT THE CHIEFS

Favre showed he could move the ball in the air, but he didn't prove he could take it in. This isn't a team in which the Bears can afford to squander scoring opportunities. ... The Bears must shut down the run and challenge Krieg to beat them in the air. ... Chicago must also establish its run, because the offensive line isn't strong enough to consistently turn back Smith and Thomas.

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL



WHEN THE CHIEFS HAVE THE BALL



Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Noon Chicago time, Sunday, Nov. 21.

Site: Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri.

Capacity: 77,622

Playing surface: Artificial turf

Last meeting: Chiefs won 21-10 at Chicago on December 29, 1990.

Series history: Bears lead series 3-2. Chicago had won three straight (1977-87) before losing last meeting. Bears are 1-1 at Kansas City.

Radio-TV coverage: Game will be televised regionally by CBS. It will also be carried live by WGN Radio and the Bears Radio Network with announcers Wayne Larrivee, Gary Fencik, Dick Butkus and Hub Arkush.



K.C.'s Nick Lowery is the most accurate kicker in NFL history. The 15-year veteran has made 320 of 400 attempts (80 percent).

Not Your Average Joe

Five things you may not have known about Chiefs quarterback Joe Montana:

•His 93.5 career quarterback ranking is the best in NFL history.

•He threw for 4,121 yards during his career at Notre Dame but had just as many interceptions as touchdown passes (25 of each).

•He started his junior season at Notre Dame backing up former Bear QB Rusty Lisch.

•As a starter he has defeated every NFL team at least once.

•He has a winning regular season record against all but nine NFL teams, including the Bears (3-3).



Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age*	Yr.	College
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	215	30	7	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	190	30	9	Georgia
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	192	23	R	Florida
10	Peter Tom Willis	QB	6-2	204	26	4	Florida State
17	Chris Gardocki	P/K	6-1	196	23	3	Clemson
20	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	192	25	4	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	185	27	5	Clemson
22	Robert Green	RB	5-8	207	22	2	William & Mary
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	202	31	10	Ohio State
24	Kevin Miniefield	CB	5-9	178	23	R	Arizona State
25	Keshon Johnson	CB	5-10	177	23	R	Arizona
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	178	26	4	Alabama
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	215	29	8	Florida
36	Markus Paul	S	6-2	200	27	5	Syracuse
37	Maurice Douglass	S	5-11	202	29	7	Kentucky
38	Tim Worley	RB	6-2	225	26	4	Georgia
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Tennessee
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	225	26	1	Northwestern
45	Craig Heyward	FB	5-11	260	27	6	Pittsburgh
47	Anthony Blaylock	CB	5-10	185	28	6	Winston-Salem St.
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	238	28	6	Oklahoma
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Fresno State
55	Vinson Smith	LB	6-2	236	28	7	East Carolina
58	Jay Leeuwenburg	OL	6-2	290	24	2	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	233	28	5	Oregon Tech
60	Gene McGuire	C	6-2	284	23	2	Notre Dame
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	282	32	11	Iowa
65	Tory Epps	DT	6-1	280	26	4	Memphis State
67	Jerry Fontenot	G/C	6-3	287	27	5	Texas A & M
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	290	24	2	California
71	James Williams	T	6-7	335	25	3	Cheyney St. (PA)
73	John Wojciechowski	G/T	6-4	280	30	7	Michigan State
74	Albert Fontenot	DE	6-4	260	23	R	Baylor
75	Todd Perry	T	6-5	291	23	R	Kentucky
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	268	36	14	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	290	36	13	USC
80	Curtis Conway	WR	6-0	185	22	R	USC
81	Fred Banks	WR	5-10	185	31	8	Liberty
83	Terry Obee	WR	5-10	188	25	1	Oregon
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	254	23	R	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	260	27	4	Clemson
86	Willie Harris	WR	6-1	193	22	R	Mississippi State
87	Tom Waddle	WR	6-0	185	26	4	Boston College
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	225	22	R	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	282	22	2	Ohio State
91	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	221	22	R	Louisiana Tech
92	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	236	23	R	Tulsa
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	265	28	5	Florida
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	33	11	Tennessee State
96	Percy Snow	LB	6-2	250	25	4	Michigan State
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	284	24	3	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	278	23	R	Florida State
99	Tim Ryan	DT	6-4	265	26	4	USC

Practice Squad

46	John Ivlow	FB	5-11	226	23	R	Colorado State
52	Jim Schwantz	LB	6-2	232	23	1	Purdue
63	Todd Burger	G	6-3	266	23	R	Penn State
88	Keenan McCardell	WR	6-1	175	23	1	UNLV
94	Frank Kmet	DL	6-3	289	23	1	Purdue

Injured Reserve (out for year)

82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	27	6	LSU
88	Glen Kozlowski	WR	6-1	210	31	8	BYU

*Age as of Jan. 1, 1994



Kansas City Chiefs

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Bryan Barker	P	6-1	187	29	4	Santa Clara
8	Nick Lowery	K	6-4	207	37	14	Dartmouth
14	Matt Blundin	QB	6-6	233	24	2	Virginia
17	Dave Krieg	QB	6-1	204	34	14	Milton
19	Joe Montana	QB	6-2	205	37	15	Notre Dame
23	Ron Dickerson	RB	6-0	211	22	R	Arkansas
25	Doug Terry	S	5-11	197	23	2	Kansas
27	Jay Taylor	CB	5-10	170	25	5	San Jose State
29	Albert Lewis	CB	6-2	195	32	11	Grambling
30	Martin Bayless	S	6-2	219	30	10	Bowling Green
31	Kevin Ross	CB	5-9	185	31	10	Temple
32	Marcus Allen	RB	6-2	210	33	12	Southern California
34	Dale Carter	CB	6-1	188	23	2	Tennessee
38	Kimble Anders	RB	5-11	221	27	3	Houston
41	David Whitmore	S	6-0	232	26	4	Stephen F. Austin
42	Charles Mincy	S	5-11	197	22	3	Washington
44	Harvey Williams	RB	6-2	215	26	3	Louisiana State
45	Ernie Thompson	RB	5-11	257	23	2	Indiana
46	Bennie Thompson	S	6-0	216	30	4	Grambling
48	Todd McNair	RB	6-1	197	27	5	Temple
50	Erick Anderson	LB	6-1	235	24	2	Michigan
51	Lonnie Marts	LB	6-1	230	24	4	Tulane
52	Tracy Rogers	LB	6-2	241	26	4	Fresno State
53	Santo Stephens	LB	6-4	232	24	1	Temple
54	Tracy Simien	LB	6-1	250	25	3	Texas Christian
58	Derrick Thomas	RCK	6-3	242	26	5	Alabama
59	Jaime Fields	LB	5-11	230	23	R	Washington
61	Tim Grunhard	C	6-2	299	25	4	Notre Dame
64	Tom Ricketts	T	6-5	290	27	5	Pittsburgh
65	Lindsay Knapp	G/T	6-6	280	23	R	Notre Dame
66	Ricky Siglar	T	6-7	304	27	2	San Jose State
68	Will Shields	G	6-2	296	21	R	Nebraska
70	Reggie McElroy	T	6-6	290	33	12	West Texas State
72	Danny Villa	G	6-5	300	28	7	Arizona State
73	Joe Valerio	T/C	6-5	288	23	3	Pennsylvania
74	Derrick Graham	T	6-4	306	26	4	Appalachian State
75	Joe Phillips	DT	6-5	300	30	8	Southern Methodist
76	John Alt	T	6-6	307	31	10	Iowa
77	Pellom McDaniels	DE	6-3	278	25	1	Oregon State
79	Dave Szott	G	6-4	290	25	4	Penn State
80	Fred Jones	WR	5-9	180	25	4	Grambling
81	Hassan Jones	WR	6-0	202	29	8	Florida State
82	Tim Barnett	WR	6-1	200	25	3	Jackson State
84	Willie Davis	WR	6-0	172	25	2	Central Arkansas
85	Jonathan Hayes	TE	6-5	252	31	9	Iowa
88	J.J. Birden	WR	5-9	155	28	8	Oregon
89	Keith Cash	TE	6-4	240	24	3	Texas
90	Neil Smith	DE	6-4	273	27	6	Nebraska
92	Darren Mickell	DT	6-4	280	23	2	Florida
96	Tim Newton	DT	6-0	259	30	8	Florida
97	Dan Saleaumua	DT	6-0	300	28	7	Arizona State
98	Leonard Griffin	DE	6-4	278	30	8	Grambling

Reserve/Injured:

22	Trevor Cobb	RB	5-9	194	22	R	Rice
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Practice Squad:

7	Jeff Jones	WR	5-10	185	22	R	California
26	Tim Watson	S	6-1	213	23	1	Howard
43	Lance Lewis	RB	5-11	224	23	R	Nebraska
49	Mike Bartrum	TE	6-4	234	23	R	Marshall
83	Danan Hughes	WR	6-1	201	22	R	Iowa



CENTRAL ISSUES

By John Delcos

Fontes snaps at media coverage



Detroit Lions

Coach Wayne Fontes is a little testy and sensitive these days of criticism of QB Rodney Peete. After Peete threw a 93-yard touchdown pass to Herman Moore off a scramble against Minnesota, there was post-game talk the score came off a busted play, which irked Fontes.

"When Rodney scrambled and made the great toss to Herman, all I heard and read about was how they broke coverage and we were very fortunate," said Fontes. "If that play would have happened to John Elway, the media, the people on television during the game would have said, 'Another great play by John

Elway.' Any other quarterback would have gotten tremendous accolades. With us, we were just lucky."

Touchy. Touchy.

Three points Fontes seems to have forgotten during this snit: 1) all 93-yard touchdown plays off a scramble, in fact, most touchdown passes off a scramble — even those thrown by Elway — come when the defense breaks coverage, and 2) Elway will go into the Hall of Fame largely because of his ad-lib ability, while Peete has had minimal success, and 3) if Peete is so good, then why can't Fontes make up his mind about his quarterbacks?

INJURIES: None reported.

SCOUTING REPORT: At Green Bay. The Lions, who had a bye last week, are in Milwaukee to play the Packers, a team they don't want to face, especially

on the road. ... Packers DE Reggie White is — as is the rest of the defense — on an aggressive roll, which can't help Peete. ... Everybody expects the Lions to attempt to establish RB Barry Sanders first to take pressure off Peete. However, an option worth exploring, is for the Lions to set up Sanders by opening with a short passing game.



Green Bay Packers

One of the storied franchises in NFL history selected two versions of its 75th anniversary team: the Iron Man Era (1921-48) and the Modern Era (1949-present).

The Modern Era includes: QB Bart Starr; RBs Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung; WRs Sterling Sharpe and James Lofton; OL Forrest Gregg, Bob Skoronski, Jim Ringo, Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston; TE Ron Kramer; DL Willie Davis, Lionel Aldridge, Henry Jordan and Dave Hanner; LBs Ray Nitschke, Dave Robinson and Lee Roy Caffey; DBs Herb Adderley, Willie Buchanon, Willie Wood and Bobby Dillon; PK Jan Stenerud and P Donny Anderson.

The Iron Man Era includes: ends Don Hutson and Lavern Dilweg; OL Cal Hubbard, Buford Ray, Charles Goldenberg, Mike Michalske and Charley Brock; QB Cecil Isbell; RBs Tony Canadeo, Johnny McNally and Clark Hinkle.

INJURIES: WR Sterling Sharpe (toe), CB Corey Harris (knee), CB Bruce Pickens (hamstring), TE Mark Chmura (shoulder), OT Ken Ruetters (knee), WR Mark Clayton (calf).

SCOUTING REPORT: Detroit. (See above.)



Minnesota Vikings

If the Vikings hope to play into January, they must reverse this alarming trend: They were outscored 31-0 in the fourth quarters of consecutive losses to Detroit and San Diego. Prior to the Denver game, they have been outscored 54-27 in the fourth quarter.

"It's not near a panic situation," said TE Steve Jordan. "We won two straight

games earlier this season by coming back in the fourth quarter. I wouldn't say it's a case of us running out of gas late in the game."

There is another red flag.

After their first six games, the Vikings had the No. 1 ranked defense and had gone 25 straight games without a quarterback throwing for 250 yards against them. Then in consecutive games, the Lions' Rodney Peete and San Diego's John Friesz threw for 273 and 262 yards, respectively. Also, the Lions' Herman Moore caught a 93-yard touchdown pass, and Anthony Miller had a 66-yard reception.

INJURIES: QB Jim McMahon (shoulder), WR Anthony Carter (back), LB Ed McDaniel (shoulder), DT Esera Tuaolo (hamstring).

SCOUTING REPORT: At Tampa Bay. A must game. If the Vikings are to have any hope of catching the Lions, they can't afford another loss, especially in the division. ... The rushing defense has been vulnerable to power-running teams, but the Bucs' Reggie Cobb is ailing.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Linebacker Jimmy Williams is in hot water for shoving a female sportswriter — Michelle Kaufman of the Detroit Free Press — in the locker room after a loss in Detroit. According to Kaufman, she was among a group of writers interviewing Hardy Nickerson, and as often the case in crowded NFL locker rooms, the spillover of reporters went into the next locker, which happened to be Williams'. As he tried to get to his locker — to pick up a bag, not get dressed — Williams shoved Kaufman in the back and said, "You don't belong here."

Kaufman interpreted the comment to mean she didn't belong there because she was a woman; Williams said it was because she was in his locker.

INJURIES: RB Reggie Cobb (knee), OT Paul Gruber (groin), LB Demetrius DuBose (knee), NT Mark Wheeler (knee), LB Hardy Nickerson (neck), NT Bernard Wilson (ankle), TE Ron Hall (neck), WR Courtney Hawkins (heel), LB Broderick Thomas (neck).

SCOUTING REPORT: Minnesota. Both Gruber and Cobb are day-to-day, which limits the offense.

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Obee bounces back

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Terry Obee was headed straight for the doghouse after a couple of questionable decisions on punt returns in games against the Vikings and Packers. Coach Dave Wannstedt almost begrudgingly announced that Obee would continue returning punts because rookie first-round draft pick Curtis Conway was hampered by a sore shoulder.

Obee responded to the challenge by making all the right moves against the Raiders. Not only did he do an excellent job fielding punts despite extremely gusty winds, but he showed flashes of the elusiveness that earned him a spot on the Bears roster in the first place. Obee called one fair catch and returned two other punts, including one for 15 yards.

Then with the Bears trailing 16-7 late in the game, he told quarterback Jim Harbaugh he could beat Raiders cornerback James Trapp to the corner of the end zone. True to his word, Obee hauled in a 13-yard TD pass on a perfectly executed fade pattern.

Obee was pleased with the performance but stopped short of calling it personal redemption.

"Not really. I just take every game day by day," he said. "I just keep a positive attitude about it. I'm blessed to be in this situation. I thank God for everything. He's in control of my life, so I never really worry about things like that. As a punt returner, I'm getting better as we go. But all the decisions I've made, I don't think

I would change any of those."
More from the Raiders game:

ANDERSON: Neal Anderson's 28 carries tied a career-high set in an overtime win over the Broncos in 1990. Anderson's longest run was only 10 yards. In the Denver game, his longest run was just 11.

BUTLER: Kevin Butler's first miss, from 21 yards, was the shortest miss of his career. Previously his shortest miss was 24 yards. In 96 attempts of 29 yards or less, Butler has missed just seven. Six of the misses were wide left, one was wide right.

CLOSE CALLS: Last year the Bears lost 11 games by an average of 12.7 points. This year's five losses have been by an average of 5.8 points. Counting the preseason, seven of Chicago's eight losses have been by seven points or less. Regular season losses have come by margins of 6, 3, 7, 14 and 2 points. Last year eight losses were by at least 13 points.

DEFENSE: For the eighth straight week, the Bears improved their average yards allowed. For the first time all season, the Bears' defense slipped in the rankings. They went from six to seven as the Chiefs leapfrogged them:

G	RK	YRD
#1	24	361.0
#2	18	318.5
#3	18	321.7

#4	16	309.0
#5	14	302.4
#6	8	294.0
#7	6	289.3
#8	7	287.4

game 25-yard scramble was one yard shy of his longest pro run. In 1989, he ran 26 yards for a touchdown against Tampa Bay.

JONES: For the fifth time this season middle linebacker Dante Jones led the Bears in tackles. Jones recorded a season-high 18 stops, raising his team-leading total to 99.

17-POINTS: For 10 years starting in 1981, the Bears were an incredible 89-2 in games when they held their opponent to 17 points or less. This year they've already lost three such games including their last two. On the average, NFL teams win 76 percent of their games when the opponent fails to score 18 points.

DRIVING: Having marched over 40 yards for a touchdown on only three previous occasions, the Bears did it twice against the Raiders, advancing 81 and 66 yards for TDs.

GARDOCKI: Three of Chris Gardocki's six punts had to be fair caught. For the season, 24 of his 46 punts have been fair caught (52 percent). He's also placed 22 inside the 20-yard line.

HARBAUGH: Jim Harbaugh's late

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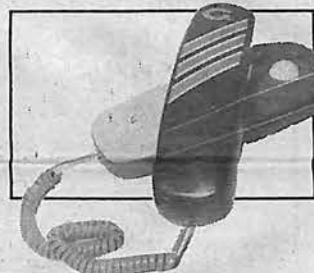
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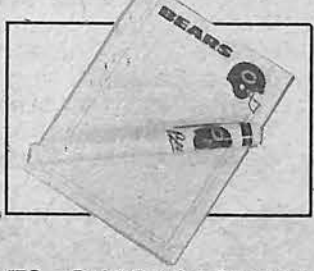
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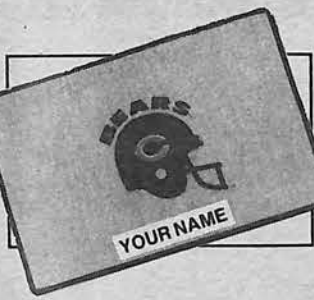
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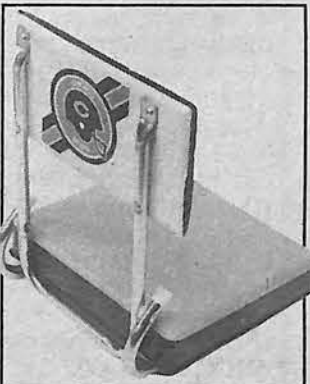
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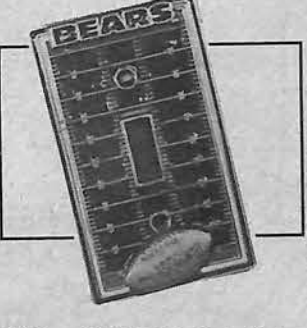
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1993 NFL Schedule

(Central Time)

Week 1

Sunday, Sept. 5

N.Y. Giants 26, BEARS 20
 Detroit 30, Atlanta 13
 Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 14
 Denver 26, N.Y. Jets 20
 Kansas City 27, Tampa Bay 3
 Miami 24, Indianapolis 20
 Buffalo 38, New England 14
 Philadelphia 23, Phoenix 17
 San Francisco 24, Pittsburgh 13
 L.A. Raiders 24, Minnesota 7
 San Diego 18, Seattle 12
 New Orleans 33, Houston 21
 Green Bay 36, Rams 6

Monday, Sept. 6

Washington 35, Dallas 16

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 12

Minnesota 10, BEARS 7
 N.Y. Giants 27, Tampa Bay 7
 Detroit 19, New England 16, OT
 Indianapolis 9, Cincinnati 6
 Houston 30, Kansas City 0
 New Orleans 34, Atlanta 31
 Philadelphia 20, Green Bay 17
 Phoenix 17, Washington 10
 N.Y. Jets 24, Miami 14
 L.A. Rams 27, Pittsburgh 0
 Denver 34, San Diego 17
 Buffalo 13, Dallas 10
 L.A. Raiders 17, Seattle 13

Monday, Sept. 13

Cleveland 23, San Francisco 13

Week 3

BYE: AFC East except New England,
 NFC Central except Detroit

Sunday, Sept. 19

Pittsburgh 34, Cincinnati 7
 New Orleans 14, Detroit 3
 N.Y. Giants 20, L.A. Rams 10
 Seattle 17, New England 14
 Philadelphia 34, Washington 31
 San Francisco 37, Atlanta 30
 Cleveland 19, L.A. Raiders 16
 San Diego 18, Houston 17
 Dallas 17, Phoenix 10

Monday, Sept. 20

Kansas City 15, Denver 7

Week 4

Sunday, Sept. 26

BYE: AFC West except Seattle,
 NFC East except Phoenix

BEARS 47, Tampa Bay 17
 Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 10
 Minnesota 15, Green Bay 13
 L.A. Rams 28, Houston 13
 Miami 22, Buffalo 13
 Detroit 26, Phoenix 20
 New Orleans 16, San Francisco 13
 Seattle 19, Cincinnati 10
 N.Y. Jets 45, New England 7

Monday, Sept. 27

Pittsburgh 45, Atlanta 17

Week 5

Sunday, Oct. 3

BYE: AFC Central, New England,
 Phoenix

BEARS 6, Atlanta 0
 Dallas 36, Green Bay 14
 Tampa Bay 27, Detroit 10
 Kansas City 24, L.A. Raiders 9
 Denver 35, Indianapolis 13
 San Francisco 38, Minnesota 19
 New Orleans 37, L.A. Rams 6
 Philadelphia 35, N.Y. Jets 30
 Seattle 31, San Diego 14
 Buffalo 17, N.Y. Giants 14

Monday, Oct. 4

Miami 17, Washington 10

Week 6

Sunday, Oct. 10

BYE: NFC West, Detroit, Seattle

BEARS 17, Philadelphia 6
 Green Bay 30, Denver 27
 Kansas City 17, Cincinnati 15
 Dallas 27, Indianapolis 3
 Miami 24, Cleveland 14
 N.Y. Giants 41, Washington 7
 Minnesota 15, Tampa Bay 0
 Pittsburgh 16, San Diego 3
 New England 23, Phoenix 21
 L.A. Raiders 24, N.Y. Jets 20

Monday, Oct. 11

Buffalo 35, Houston 7

Week 7

Thursday, Oct. 14

BYE: AFC East except New England,
 NFC Central except Detroit

Atlanta 30, L.A. Rams 24

Sunday, Oct. 17

Cleveland 28, Cincinnati 17
 Houston 28, New England 14
 Pittsburgh 37, New Orleans 14
 N.Y. Giants 21, Philadelphia 10
 Detroit 30, Seattle 10
 Phoenix 36, Washington 6
 Kansas City 17, San Diego 14
 Dallas 26, San Francisco 17

Monday, Oct. 18

L.A. Raiders 23, Denver 20

Week 8

Sunday, Oct. 24

BYE: AFC West except Seattle,
 NFC East except Phoenix

Green Bay 37, Tampa Bay 14
 Atlanta 26, New Orleans 15
 Buffalo 19, N.Y. Jets 10
 Houston 28, Cincinnati 12
 Cleveland 28, Pittsburgh 23
 Detroit 16, L.A. Rams 13
 Seattle 10, New England 9
 San Francisco 28, Phoenix 14
 Miami 41, Indianapolis 27

Monday, Oct. 25

Minnesota 19, BEARS 12

Week 9

Sunday, Oct. 31

BYE: AFC Central

Green Bay 17, BEARS 3
 Miami 30, Kansas City 10
 Indianapolis 9, New England 6
 Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 24
 N.Y. Jets 10, N.Y. Giants 6
 Dallas 23, Philadelphia 10
 New Orleans 20, Phoenix 17
 San Diego 30, L.A. Raiders 23
 San Francisco 40, L.A. Rams 17
 Denver 28, Seattle 17
 Detroit 30, Minnesota 27

Monday, Nov. 1

Buffalo 24, Washington 10

Week 10

Sunday, Nov. 7

BYE: NFC West

L.A. Raiders 16, BEARS 14
 Denver 29, Cleveland 14
 Buffalo 13, New England 10 (OT)
 Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 9
 Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 16

San Diego 30, Minnesota 17

Houston 24, Seattle 14

Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 0
 N.Y. Jets 27, Miami 10
 Phoenix 16, Philadelphia 3
 Washington 30, Indianapolis 24

Monday, Nov. 8

Kansas City 23, Green Bay 16

Week 11

Sunday, Nov. 14

BYE: Detroit, New England

BEARS 16, San Diego 13
 Green Bay 19, New Orleans 17
 Houston 38, Cincinnati 3
 San Francisco 45, Tampa Bay 21
 Miami 19, Philadelphia 14
 N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 6
 Dallas 20, Phoenix 15
 Kansas City 31, L.A. Raiders 20
 Atlanta 13, L.A. Rams 0
 Seattle 22, Cleveland 5
 Minnesota 26, Denver 23
 N.Y. Jets 31, Indianapolis 17

Monday, Nov. 15

Buffalo at Pittsburgh 8 p.m.

Week 12

Sunday, Nov. 21

BYE: Phoenix, Seattle

BEARS at Kansas City Noon
 Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets Noon
 Dallas at Atlanta Noon
 Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milw. Noon
 Houston at Cleveland Noon
 Indianapolis at Buffalo Noon
 New England at Miami Noon
 L.A. Raiders at San Diego 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia 3 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Denver 3 p.m.
 Washington at L.A. Rams 3 p.m.
 Minnesota at Tampa Bay 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 22

New Orleans at San Francisco 8 p.m.

Week 13

Thursday, Nov. 25

BEARS at Detroit 11:30 a.m.
 Miami at Dallas 3 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 28

Cleveland at Atlanta Noon
 L.A. Raiders at Cincinnati Noon
 New Orleans at Minnesota Noon
 N.Y. Jets at New England Noon

Philadelphia at Washington Noon

Tampa Bay at Green Bay Noon

Buffalo at Kansas City 3 p.m.

Denver at Seattle 3 p.m.

Phoenix at N.Y. Giants 3 p.m.

San Francisco at L.A. Rams 3 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Houston 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 29

San Diego at Indianapolis 8 p.m.

Week 14

Sunday, Dec. 5

Green Bay at BEARS Noon
 Atlanta at Houston Noon
 Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets Noon
 L.A. Raiders at Buffalo Noon
 Minnesota at Detroit Noon
 New England at Pittsburgh Noon
 New Orleans at Cleveland Noon
 Washington at Tampa Bay Noon
 Denver at San Diego 3 p.m.
 Kansas City at Seattle 3 p.m.
 L.A. Rams at Phoenix 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at Miami 3 p.m.
 Cincinnati at San Francisco 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 6

Philadelphia at Dallas 8 p.m.

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 11

N.Y. Jets at Washington 11:30 a.m.

San Francisco at Atlanta 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12

BEARS at Tampa Bay Noon
 Buffalo at Philadelphia Noon
 Cincinnati at New England Noon
 Cleveland at Houston Noon
 Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants Noon
 L.A. Rams at New Orleans Noon
 Dallas at Minnesota 3 p.m.
 Detroit at Phoenix 3 p.m.
 Kansas City at Denver 3 p.m.
 Seattle at L.A. Raiders 3 p.m.
 Green Bay at San Diego 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

Pittsburgh at Miami 8 p.m.

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 18

Denver at BEARS 11:30 a.m.

Dallas at N.Y. Jets 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19

Atlanta at Washington Noon

Buffalo at Miami Noon

Houston at Pittsburgh Noon

L.A. Rams at Cincinnati Noon

Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milw. Noon

New England at Cleveland Noon

Phoenix at Seattle 3 p.m.

San Diego at Kansas City 3 p.m.

San Francisco at Detroit 3 p.m.

Tampa Bay at L.A. Raiders 3 p.m.

Philadelphia at Indianapolis 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20

N.Y. Giants at New Orleans 8 p.m.

Week 17

Saturday, Dec. 25

Houston at San Francisco 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 26

Detroit at BEARS Noon
 Atlanta at Cincinnati Noon
 Indianapolis at New England Noon
 L.A. Raiders at Green Bay Noon
 New Orleans at Philadelphia Noon
 N.Y. Jets at Buffalo 3 p.m.
 Cleveland at L.A. Rams 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at Phoenix 3 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Seattle 3 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Denver 3 p.m.
 Washington at Dallas 3 p.m.
 Kansas City at Minnesota 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 27

Miami at San Diego 8 p.m.

Week 18

Friday, Dec. 31

Minnesota at Washington 2 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2

BEARS at L.A. Rams 3 p.m.
 Buffalo at Indianapolis Noon
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh Noon
 Dallas at N.Y. Giants Noon
 Green Bay at Detroit Noon
 Miami at New England Noon
 Phoenix at Atlanta Noon
 Seattle at Kansas City Noon
 Cincinnati at New Orleans 3 p.m.
 Denver at L.A. Raiders 3 p.m.
 San Diego at Tampa Bay 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at Houston 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 3

Philadelphia at San Francisco 8 p.m.

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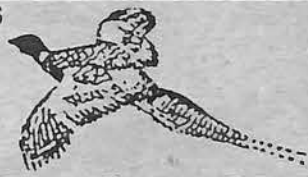
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VIEWPOINT

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Time to build for future

I have a headache and it has Jim Harbaugh written all over it. I'm tired of reading letters about how good he is at quarterback. The Bears will never go far with him. I keep hearing how athletic he is. Who cares? I'm athletic, but if you don't have the skill and the talent for the job, it's time to go. It's time to take the football away from him and hand him a clipboard.

The Bears are in for a few rebuilding years, so why not build for the future with P.T. Willis? I feel he has more talent for the position than Harbaugh.

Jim McMahon was the best quarterback of modern times the Bears have had. People who say a monkey could have played quarterback for our Super Bowl team are wrong. That ultimate victory was a team effort. I suppose if a monkey had played for Walter Payton we still would have had the same success.

One last thing: It's time for Mike McCaskey to take a back seat and hire someone who knows football to run the team. It's plain and simple that he doesn't know what he is doing. I don't want the Bears to be the doormat of the NFC Central, so let's go, Mike, swallow your pride and put the pride back in the Bears.

Chad Boudreau
San Diego

Give Willis a chance

I have been a Bears fan all my life and I enjoy reading *Bear Report*. I live in green and gold territory and I don't appreciate a defeat by the Packers, especially when it is because of an inept offense.

I think it is time to give P.T. Willis a chance to play. Jim Harbaugh can't seem to read defenses and is slow to pick up his secondary receivers. I know the offensive line is having its problems, but even in past years Harbaugh has looked like a quarterback of indecision when it comes to the passing game.

I also feel it's time to give up on Neal Anderson. This is a case of having the desire to perform, but the body isn't able to. The injuries have taken away the abilities he once had.

I have enjoyed the defense this year. I feel Dave Wannstedt has given the Bears back the aggressive and attacking style of play that Bears fans know and enjoy.

Tim Garasha
Eagle River, Wisconsin

Not Harbaugh's fault

I am a 16-year-old boy who's been a manic Bears fan since I have understood the sport. I would like to thank you for great coverage of the greatest team in the NFL. Without you I would have no access to Bears news or merchandise. I think I'm the only Bears fan in Louisiana.

I think everyone needs to get off the team's back. Everyone is fussing about

Jim Harbaugh and the bad play of the offensive line. People need to understand that the Bears are in a rebuilding process. We have young players who need experience.

Also, I understand that Dave Wannstedt has very big shoes to fill, but if anyone is capable of doing it, it's him. Everyone needs to get off the guy's back.

I firmly believe that by 1996 Bears fans will see one of the greatest teams in NFL history and Harbaugh will be the great quarterback to lead them there. This team that's now called mediocre will prove the football world wrong.

David J. Cattar, Jr.
Monroe, Louisiana

Line is the main problem

I have always been a proud Bears fan, but living in Virginia I don't get to see too many Bears games. I have watched the Vikings and Packers games and let me say that I am ashamed of the Bears' offensive line. I can imagine five or six sacks in a game, but seven and nine is too much for the quarterback to handle.

Everyone has criticized Jim Harbaugh's ability, but I would like to see Joe Montana or Troy Aikman behind this offensive line. Against the Packers, the Bears were extremely close to scoring, but then a sack or a loss would stop them.

I thought that with Tony Wise coming in and coaching them they would improve, but it seems they haven't. In the future I would like to see some blocking from the players they have and I'd like to see the Bears start drafting and trading for some quality players.

Kevin McClintock
Manassas, Virginia

Thanks for memories

Thank you, Doug Buffone, for the memories in your October 30th column

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in *Bear Report*. After reading it I got goose pimples and tears remembering the rivalry between George Halas's Bears and Vince Lombardi's Packers.

The time you are speaking of was when there weren't so many teams and you played on natural grass, not in a dome. Today the intensity is not like it was then.

I also remember the college all-star games at Soldier Field when all stars played the NFL championship team. I attended a few of those games.

Thank you, too, for starting *Bear Report*. God bless you.

Emelyn Mast
Elkhart, Indiana

Starting a fan club

I'm a big Bears fan living in South Carolina and I'm trying to start a Bears fan club in my area. Any information you can provide me to get it going would be wonderful. I have a local sports bar near my house and they show the Bears every weekend. I'd make it our meeting place.

Timmy Jackson
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

We suggest discussing your idea with the patrons of the bar the next time you get together to watch a game. Take names and addresses and charge a nominal entry fee for inclusion in the club. You may want to talk to the establishment's owner to see if he or she would like to get involved in some way or another. (Food and drink specials for club members is one idea.)

You may also want to include specialty items such as a membership card, Bears team photo, or even a club key chain. Being organized is the key to any successful group.

Once you get a few people involved, why not place an ad in local newspapers seeking Bears fans to join you. That's the best way to build your club.

Let us know how it goes. Good luck!

Papa Bear remembered

On October 31 Don Shula tied George Halas's record for wins by a head coach.

What struck me was that this took place 10 years to the day Halas passed from this earth. That gave me a chill.

Spike Bardowski
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania



BEAR WANT ADS

If there's a Bears item you've been searching long and hard for or if you just want to hook up with other Bears fans in your area, we can help. Your request or offer will be printed free of charge on a space-available basis.

All ads must be mailed to: WANT ADS, Bear Report, P.O. Box 4205, Arlington Heights IL 60006.

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WANTED: VHS copy of Monday Night Football game Bears at San Diego Chargers in 1984.

Contact: Paul Clements, P.O. Box 28156, San Diego, CA 92198, 619-745-5589.

WANTED: A knowledgeable female Bears fan to go to home games and to watch away games--and mainly get to know each other. Promise never a dull moment.

Contact: Mick Branam, 500 East Lowe Street, Fairfield, IA 52556.

WANTED: VHS tapes of Dick Butkus. Also information about where I can get a Butkus replica jersey.

Contact: Jerry Jezior, 6 Springhill Drive, Clementon, NJ 08021.

WANTED: VHS copy of Super Bowl XX.

Contact: Richard Ackley, 56 Los Angeles Street, Springfield, MA 01107.

WANTED: VHS copies of any games with Walter Payton playing or any Payton collectibles.

Contact: Bob Pyan, 1512 W. Cotte Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452, 715-536-3713.

WANTED: Bears fans to throw a tailgate party in Pontiac at Thanksgiving Day game.

Contact: Gary Romano, 209-951-9561.

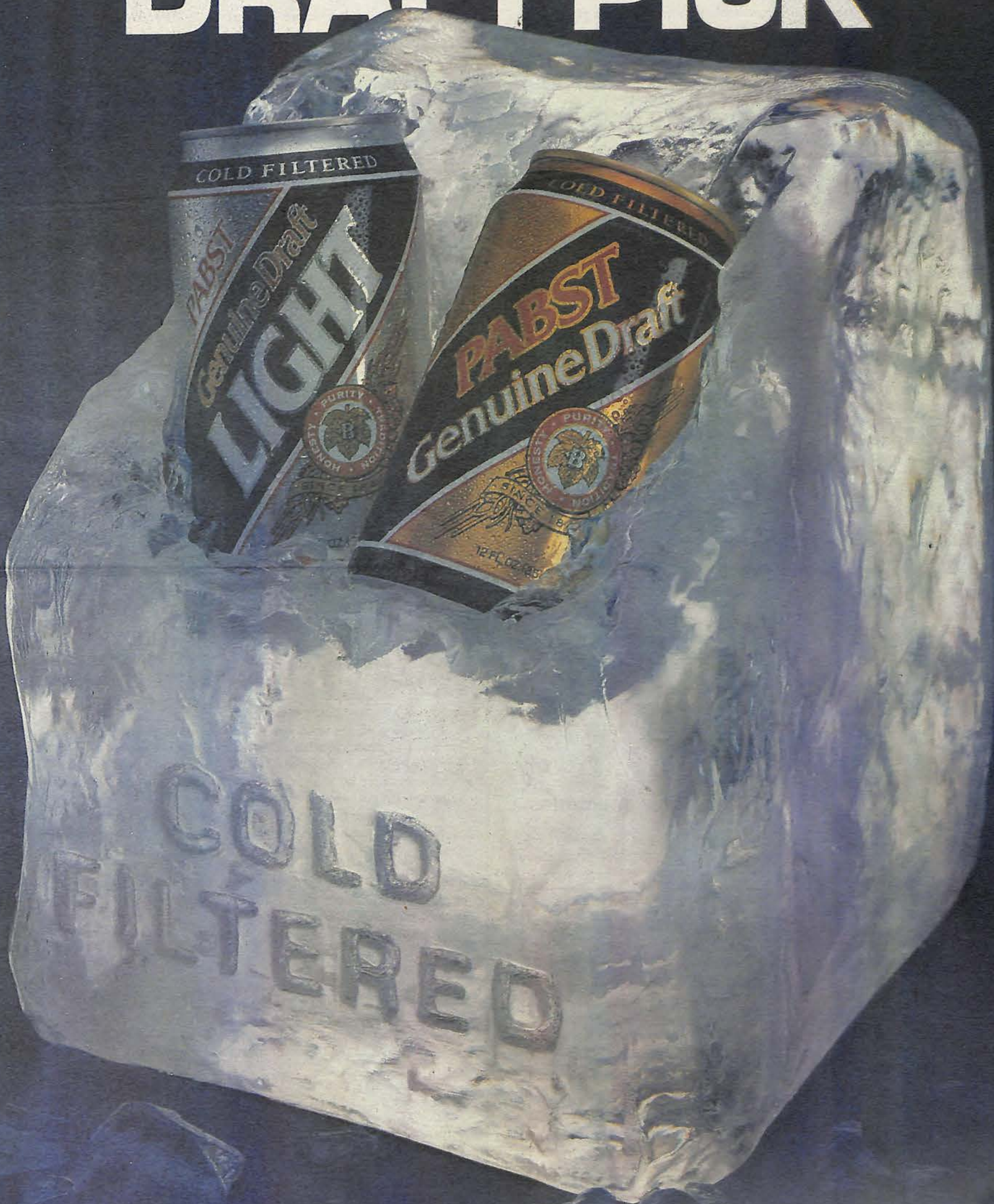
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